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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

US envoy Sergio Gor meets HM Amit Shah to explore ways to deepen security ties, focus on tackling terror & cross-border drug trade

Nation First
The Core Policy
12 Saal
Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke
Dream of a Naxal-free India becomes a reality, with a strong crackdown on terrorism
Freedom from the colonial mindset – Rajpath becomes Kartavya Path, and a new Naval Ensign in honour of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
CBC 222201/13/0017/2627

PM in Paris: For progress, tech must be for all

Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratised, PM Modi said Thursday at VivaTech 2026 in Paris. Saying AI means 'all inclusive' for India, he said it must "improve lives, widen access, drive growth and also help us sustain a healthy planet". He added, "In 2021, when I addressed VivaTech, the world was facing disruption of Covid-19. Today, it is ...disruptions of other kinds. I reiterate the message... Where convention fails, innovation can help". **P 7**

The Great Unspoken

Many of us are living lives we have no language for — yet. Desire, vitality, intimacy, aging, inheritance: subjects every Indian home knows and no Indian dinner table names. Beginning today, **TOI** opens that conversation. **The Great Unspoken** is a new fortnightly column in the edit page, aimed at giving a public vocabulary to the most private chapters of our lives

SEE EDIT PAGE

U'khand declares itself fully literate

Uttarakhand cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal declaring the state 'fully literate' as literacy rate has crossed 98%. The proposal will be moved to the Centre, and Uttarakhand will become the sixth state to achieve the feat, after Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal, and Sikkim. **P 5**

Versailles II: Trump rushes where historians would dread to tread

Signs Treaty With Iran, Critics Term It 'Surrender, Blunder'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The Art of the Deal met the ghost of Versailles. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed a controversial MoU committing, among other things, Washington to help finance Iran's reconstruction to the tune of $300 billion. He signed the document in the same place that gave the world the Treaty of Versailles, history's most famous cautionary tale about war, peace, reparations, unintended consequences and leaders who believed they had struck a masterful deal.

FULL COVERAGE: P 10

The symbolism was so on-the-nose that even Hollywood script editors would have rejected it as implausible. For generations, "Versailles" has been shorthand for a peace settlement that many historians believe helped sow the seeds of an even bigger conflict. Yet there was Trump, sharpie in hand, beneath the glittering chandeliers, signing a deal that critics immediately denounced as a surrender document complete with vast financial commitments to a regime Washington had been bombing only weeks earlier.

Former national security adviser Susan Rice called the MoU "a jaw-dropping, horrific surrender document complete with hundreds of billions in reparations", terming it "the biggest national-security blunder in decades". Other critics wondered if French President Emmanuel Macron had deliberately set the stage for the greatest diplomatic trolling of the century. "Whoever got him to sign it at Versailles. Genius. The final humiliation," noted one analyst.

Even more awkwardly for the White House, some of the loudest attacks came from Trump's own side.

▶Iran 'rewarded', P 10

JD TO ISRAEL: DON'T CRITICISE YOUR ONLY POWERFUL ALLY

- Fresh Israeli airstrikes hit Lebanon, where more than a million people are displaced by the fighting. Israeli PM Benjamin **Netanyahu says his forces will stay in southern Lebanon** 'for as long as Israel's security needs require it'
- US vice-president J D **Vance criticises Israel for a 'weird panic' and 'freakout'** over agreement. 'If I was in the cabinet of the Israeli govt, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have left anywhere in the entire world'
- S&P 500 rises 1%, Dow Jones rises 169 points, Nasdaq up 1.4%. **US gasoline prices dip below $4/gallon** for the first time since March

Photo: AFP

Trump and Pezeshkian hold up the MoU they signed

TREATY OF VERSAILLES | Signed at the end of WWI between Allied powers and Germany in 1919 inside the palace's Hall of Mirrors. It **forced Germany to accept blame, lose territory, disarm, and pay massive reparations**. It became one of history's most controversial diplomatic documents, with **Germany regarding it as a humiliation, and helped create the conditions that ultimately produced Adolf Hitler & WWII**

> These fools, who think I haven't been tough enough on Iran, when the Stock Market Just Hit A RECORD HIGH, and Oil prices are 'tumbling' down, are either jealous, bad people, or stupid. Versailles is not gold leaf – Versailles is the real deal
> —US President Donald Trump

> This is a historic document and a message from a powerful Iran: Peace will be achieved in the shadow of mutual respect
> —Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian

Stranded oil starts streaming out of Hormuz, US lifts its blockade

A growing stream of stranded oil is making its way out of the Strait of Hormuz while Kuwait said it will start ramping up production. Ships carrying nearly 10 million barrels of oil have either emerged outside the strait or are sailing through, including at least four Saudi-owned tankers, since the start of the war. Qatar sent a cargo of LNG through the waterway with its signal on, while another LNG vessel last seen outside the Persian Gulf appeared at a Qatari berth. US navy also allowed more than a dozen ships through to Iranian ports, lifting its blockade.

▶China foreign minister to visit India next week, P 7

When combined with millions of barrels already flowing through bypass pipelines, Thursday's activity would put the shipments from West Asia as close to normal levels as they have been since Feb-end. Crude futures tumbled to around $77 a barrel, touching the lowest level since the earliest days of the war. AGENCIES

Only 3 of Sena UBT's 9 LS MPs turn up for party meet in Delhi

Rebels Cite Fear Of Merger With Cong

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Mumbai: The crossover of two-thirds of Shiv Sena (UBT)'s nine LS members to the Eknath Shinde-led party seems more or less complete as the six MPs, who had written to the LS Speaker Wednesday about forming a separate group, didn't turn up for the parliamentary party meeting called by Uddhav Thackeray's party in Delhi Thursday by issuing a whip.

It was attended by the other three — Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai and Rajabhau Waze — who had already made it clear they stood by Uddhav. The rebels need 2/3rds of the party's LS tally (6 of 9 MPs) to avoid attracting provisions of the anti-defection law.

'Whip' only for MP's conduct in House?

Can refusal by six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs to attend a party meeting despite a 'whip' being issued be a ground for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule for non-obedience? While the party thinks so, some legal experts maintain the text of the Tenth Schedule specifies that disqualification for defiance of 'whip' applies only to actions of lawmakers inside the House. TNN

In their letter to Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday, the group of rebel MPs wrote that fear of Shiv Sena (UBT)'s merger with Congress and the party's deviation from its core ideology were among the main reasons for them to form a separate group.

▶Threatens action, P 6

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

- **TMC's Aroop Biswas**, replaced as treasurer in June, **wrote to HDFC asking for freeze on party account. Audit report shows a/c holds ₹535 crore.** Party denies that a debit freeze is already in place | **P 6**
- **Rival Shiv Sena factions likely to have a showdown** at foundation day events in Mumbai on Friday as **party turns 60** | **P 6**
- **NDA-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani voted to RS from Jharkhand amid cross-voting.** Cong blames allies RJD, CPI(ML) Liberation for defeat of Cong candidate | **P 5**
- **Cal HC refuses interim order on assembly speaker's decision** to appoint rebel TMC MLA **Ritabrata Banerjee as leader of opposition** | **P 6**

Not just Bidadi. K'taka govt locked in land disputes across 12 districts

Chethan Kumar & Sanjay Murty | TNN

Bengaluru: The land acquisition row in Bidadi is not an isolated flashpoint. Presentations made by deputy commissioners (DCs) at a recent meeting chaired by CM DK Shivakumar show that land acquisition and compensation disputes have emerged as the state's biggest potential law-and-order challenge, with 12 of 31 districts flagging such issues. The key concern expressed by those opposed to acquisition of land was related to agricultural activities.

Bengaluru South pointed to opposition from farmers in Bidadi to land acquisition by the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority. In Bengaluru Urban, Anekal farmers have been protesting acquisition for an industrial area since Dec 2024. Bengaluru Rural and Chikkaballapur reported unrest linked to KIADB acquisitions at multiple locations, while Kolar flagged resistance to land acquisition in Srinivasapura.

▶Water issues, P 2

TVK govt to continue two-language policy

Invoking former CM and Dravidian icon C N Annadurai, who was opposed to the three-language formula, TVK govt led by C Joseph Vijay reaffirmed its commitment to TN's two-language policy, outlined in governor R V Arlekar's address to the assembly Thursday. TNN

OTHER TOP STORIES

- Individuals make up 47% of NSE owners, **D-Mart's Damani largest non-institutional** holder in bourse | **P 11**
- **Cartridge, pebble & wood piece found** in Begusarai rape survivor's body | **P 5**
- 'Hang me', **Delhi doctor tells cops after killing help** with kitchen knife | **P 5**
- What is the Great Nicobar remake project – and **what is really at stake?** | **P 13**
- **Accenture cuts forecast,** shares slide 17% | **P 11**

Elephant calf falls into open well, dies

A two-to-three-year-old elephant calf died after falling into an open well in Bachhurkhoar village of Nayagram block, West Bengal, despite rescue bid by its herd and forest officials. TNN

For retest, why curtail rights of 150m Telegram users: HC; AG says app a 'Frankenstein'

Court's Ruling On App's Plea Today

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New Delhi: The Delhi high court will pronounce its judgment on Friday at 10.30am on Telegram's plea challenging the Centre's decision to temporarily block the messaging platform in India in view of the June 21 NEET retest.

On Thursday, the HC extensively questioned both sides. It wondered how the rights of 150 million users of the messaging app can be curtailed just because a section of students is taking an examination. Justice Tejas Karia also queried the counsel for Telegram if the platform can respond in real time to a complaint from authorities, such as in this case where the govt imposed the temporary ban on the ground that the app may be misused ahead of the NEET-UG retest.

Appearing for the Centre, Attorney General R Venkatramani cautioned about the app's features. "This platform, because of its unique architecture, I would say, is a Frankenstein," he said, referring to the monster created by Victor Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's famed novel.

▶'Open to mass misuse', P 9

IN THE COURTS

- Supreme Court **refuses to pass interim order on a plea challenging rollout of CBSE policy mandating study of 3 languages**, including 2 native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from 2026-27
- **Bengal govt challenges a Delhi HC judgment releasing Rashid Khan, a life convict in 1993 Bowbazar blast** in Kol that killed 69 people
- **With 1 in every 3 advocates found to be fake, SC agrees to examine plea of Bar Association for a nat'l digital register** for advocates along the lines of Aadhaar
- **SC rejects J'khand's plea** challenging an HC order that had quashed its notification for reducing forest buffer zone from 500m to 250m to enable grant of mining leases, says **states with rich forests must guard nat'l wealth**

Indian teen dies saving mother from NY carriage

An Indian teenager died while trying to save his mother, who was thrown off a horse-drawn carriage after the horse suddenly bolted, at Central Park in New York City, Wednesday. Romanch Mahajan, 18, jumped out of the carriage after his mother fell out and hit his head on the ground. Central Park Conservancy, which manages the 850-acre park, confirmed Romanch's death is the first human fatality involving a horse carriage ever since the ride was introduced 150 years ago. **P 10**

No fresh Metro work in 4.5 years

In more than four-and-a-half years, not a single new corridor has entered the construction stage, placing Bengaluru's Metro expansion on one of its longest pauses, reports **Suchith Kidiyoor.** Sources in Metro said that two major projects under Phase III and Phase IIIA remain stuck in the approval pipeline, adding to delays. **P 3**

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Ex-PM Gujral's son loses ₹7.8cr to cyber scam

Naresh Gujral, former Rajya Sabha MP and son of ex-PM Inder Kumar Gujral, was duped of Rs 7.8 crore in a cyber fraud.

The scammers impersonated him on a messaging platform and manipulated his staffer's phone records to transfer the funds. Police have, so far, frozen Rs 4 crore of the stolen amount.

The fraud happened between June 12 and June 16, when cybercriminals allegedly created a fake account on a messaging platform using Gujral's display picture. Sleuths said the fraudsters contacted an employee of Gujral's firm, sending urgent messages instructing multiple RTGS transfers for what appeared to be business requirements. **P5**

AI-skilled women report 145% jump in pay; 50% AI jobs beyond engg

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Bengaluru: Artificial intelligence is becoming everyone's tool to boost career growth. Women moving into AI-enabled jobs reported an average 145% jump in pay, while more than half of AI-linked career outcomes now lie outside traditional engineering roles, according to the India AI Workforce Report 2026 by Scaler.

The report suggests AI is evolving from a specialised technical skill into a broader capability that organisations are deploying across consulting, finance, marketing, HR, operations and leadership functions. The report, released Thursday, analysed career outcomes of 11,444 AI learners across 317 cities and more than 3,000 institutions. However, the report does not specify the period over which the data was collected. The increase in salaries is before and after AI upskill in the same job and role.

The findings challenge the perception that AI belongs exclusively to software developers. Nearly one-fourth of learners now come from non-technical backgrounds, reflecting the technology's growing relevance across professions. Consulting, in particular, is emerging as a new avenue, with career outcomes in the field nearly doubling after AI upskilling.

▶B'luru largest hub, P 6

19% OF AI LEARNERS FROM B'LURU

Women & AI
- 145% average salary jump for women in AI-enabled careers
- 574% salary growth for female quality assurance (QA) engineers

Beyond Engineering
- One in two AI career outcomes is outside the engineering domain
- One in four learners are from non-technical backgrounds

Career Gains
- 155% growth reported for early-career professionals
- Rs 33 lakh is average salary for engineering leaders, VPs and CXOs

Talent Map
- 19% of AI learners in India are from Bengaluru
- Emerging hubs: Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Indore, Coimbatore, Nagpur

Bangalore Times

Nothing can replace the experience of getting lost in a good book: Andrea

CAREER CALLING: NURSING SEES MALE SURGE AT RGUHS

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Bengaluru: In an unprecedented shift in an otherwise female-dominated field, male students accounted for 33% of BSc Nursing graduates at the recent convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). Over 10,000 of 31,057 graduating students were men.

Five years ago, in 2021, this number was 1,838 (of the total 10,804), thus registering a 450% growth in the number of male students over the last five years. Among all the health students graduating in 2026, only two other fields were male-dominated — MBBS and B Pharm. While the gender divide in pharmacy is closing over the years, the difference between boys and girls in MBBS remained steady over the years.

TIMES Special

In MBBS, from 2022, there was an average gap of 465 students between boys and girls. In 2022, boys led by 581. While that gap narrowed to 198 in 2023, it hit a peak in 2025 with 774 students. In 2026, there were 4,125 boys and 3,712 girls graduating from RGUHS.

The Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) course was just the opposite — in the 2026 convocation, 727 were boys and 1,752 were girls.

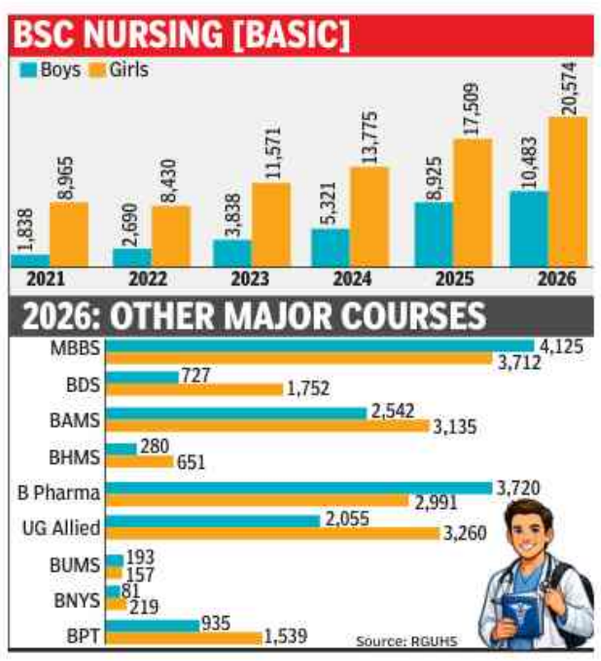
"There is a strong demand for nursing and allied health courses. The job opportunities abroad are also aplenty. Japan, Australia and European countries like Germany are showing demand for nurses. While every other job is showing saturation, healthcare is just growing like never before," said Bhagvan BC, RGUHS vice-chancellor.

"Male nurses are preferred in many sectors like airport, industry, ambulance services, wherever night shifts exist, as home nurses and many more. Every hospital will have to maintain a gender ratio. It is difficult to get a good nurse. The pattern is that as soon as the registration is completed, the graduates get into a good hospital, earn one year experience, and fly out of the country. The pay is enviable abroad," said S Shivakumar, president, Karnataka State Association of Managements of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Institutions.

AI

Shivakumar noted that Kerala has a high number of male nurses. "For those who have family members as nurses, they know what it entails. There is a strong influx of male nursing students from Kerala. In Karnataka too, there is a demand as the govt seat fees are very low," he further added.

Ali Khwaja, founder of Banjara Academy, said nursing is not as competitive as other courses and is easy to get into. "Most of them are average students, who are sure that they cannot crack NEET. They feel nursing is comparatively easy. And at the same time, there is more need for male nurses. They are considered physically more capable and thus preferred in cases that require lifting patients. And once they move abroad, there is no looking back," he said.



Court: Premium FAR scheme is not Akrama-Sakrama by another name

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Bengaluru: The high court has upheld the state's Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) scheme, ruling that it cannot be equated with the controversial Akrama-Sakrama scheme meant for regularising unauthorised constructions.

Dismissing a public interest litigation and a connected writ appeal, a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha held that Premium FAR scheme fundamentally differs from Akrama-Sakrama as it uniformly alters development regulations rather than legalising illegal structures.

In its June 15 judgment, the bench observed that Akrama-Sakrama scheme intends to regularise unauthorised constructions or land-use conversion on payment of charges. In contrast, premium FAR scheme merely increases the extent of permissible construction under zonal regulations in return for payment of premium.

Pic for representation

The high court bench observed that Akrama-Sakrama scheme intends to regularise unauthorised constructions on payment of charges

"The substratum of Premium FAR scheme is not to regularise unauthorised constructions but to amend the extent of constructions permissible under zonal regulations," the bench pointed out. The court noted that Premium FAR benefits not only new developments but also buildings that were originally constructed in accordance with law. Owners of such buildings can undertake additional construction after obtaining approvals.

The judges acknowledged that owners who had exceeded the earlier permissible limits could bring their structures into conformity by acquiring Premium FAR. However, they clarified this cannot be treated as legalisation of illegal constructions.

"Merely because a construction, which is in excess of permissible limit, stands regularised by enhancement of the limit cannot be a ground to assume it as a scheme for regularising illegal constructions," the bench observed, adding the objectives of Premium FAR and Akrama-Sakrama schemes are "completely different".

Demand for TDRs to stay

The court also rejected the petitioners' contention that Premium FAR scheme would make Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) redundant. Referring to a 2026 govt notification, the bench noted that Premium FAR is unavailable for plots abutting roads wider than 9 metres but less than 12. In such cases, developers seeking an additional FAR of 0.6 times the base FAR must obtain it entirely through TDRs purchased from TDR holders.

According to data placed before the court, 85,000 of Bengaluru's 1,08,240 roads fall within this category. Given the city's acute demand for urban space, the judges said there will continue to be significant demand for TDRs.

MONSOON CRISIS: Farmers skip fields, protest acquisition of land

Bengaluru: Southwest monsoon is traditionally a season of hope for Karnataka's farmers. From the rain-fed fields of Chamarajanagar in the south to the vast farmlands of Bidar in the north, arrival of monsoon usually marks the beginning of sowing and a host of other agricultural activities, keeping rural households occupied until Oct.

This year, however, the season has unfolded very differently. Even as monsoon has covered the entire state, thousands of farmers have taken to the streets, protesting land acquisition for industrial projects, several delays in irrigation works, inadequate supply of seeds and fertilisers, and a host of unresolved agrarian issues.

The growing unrest comes at a time when forecasts indicate the possible emergence of El Niño conditions, raising fresh concerns over rainfall and agricultural productivity.

What has further deepened the anxiety is the absence of a full-time agriculture minister in Karnataka. Amid the uncertainties, **TOI** takes a look at the major agrarian crises unfolding across Karnataka.

BENGALURU SOUTH
Project: **Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT)**
Location: **Bidadi**
Land notified: **7,500 acres**
Affected villages: **9**

CHIKKABALLAPUR
Project: **Sir M Visvesvaraya Deep Tech Park**
Location: **Jangamakote in Shidlaghatta taluk**
Land required: **2,823 acres**
Affected villages: **13**

Project: **Permanent irrigation facility**
Location: **Kolar & Chikkaballapur**
Demand: **Clean, safe water for potable and Irrigation**

TUMAKURU
Project: **HAL Phase-2**
Location: **Gubbi**
Land required: **150-200 acres**
Affected villages: **5**

Project: **Hemavathi Express Link Canal**
Location: **Gubbi to Kunigal**
Land required: **80 acres**
Affected villages: **8**

CHITRADURGA

Project: **Upper Bhadra Project**
Launch of Project: **2010**
Location: **4 districts of Central Karnataka**
Benefitted Land: **2.2L hectares**

MYSURU
Project: **Nimhans model hospital & de-addiction centre**
Location: **Gudumadanahalli**
Land required: **20 acres**
Affected village: **1**

Project: **KIADB Industrial Park**
Location: **Chikkayyanachatra, Nanjangud**
Land required: **1,123 acres**
Affected villages: **4**

MANDYA
Project: **KIADB Industrial Park**
Location: **Maddur, Mandya**
Land required: **About 500 acres**

DAKSHINA KANNADA
Project: **Udupi-Kasaragod Transmission Ltd**
Location: **Mangaluru-Udupi**
Land required: **Over 2,000 acres**

Project: **MRPL Buffer zone**
Location: **Mangaluru**
Land required: **27 acres**

UTTARA KANNADA
Project: **Linking of Bedthi-Varada-Aghanashini**
Location: **Sirsi-Yellapur**
Land required: **Over 300 acres**

BAGALKOT
Project: **Industrial estate**
Location: **Halakurki, Bagalkot**
Land required: **2,200 acres**

BALLARI
Project: **Reclaim land acquired for industrial park**
Location: **Near Kudatini**
Land demand: **10,000 acres**

SHIVAMOGGA

Project: **Sharavathi pumped storage**
Location: **Sagar-Gerusoppa**
Land required: **279 hectares**

— Text by Niranjan Kaggere

HC backs BDA's land allotment provision, bins PIL

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a relief for BDA, the high court dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the constitutional validity of Section 38-D of BDA Act.

This provision, which came into effect from July 10, 2020, pertains to allotment of BDA land in favour of the original owner or purchaser or unauthorised occupant, etc. Vijayan Menon and others challenged this along with amendments made to the corresponding Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act and Rules.

The petitioners argued that Section 38-D of BDA Act enabling transfer of public lands to illegal occupants without any basis is arbitrary. They contended that this places illegal occupants in an advantageous position compared with law-abiding citizens. They argued that in the absence of guidelines governing the exercise of statutory power, such power would be subject to arbitrariness.

BDA told the court that its predecessor, City Improvement Trust Board (CITB), and the authority itself had acquired large areas of land between 1945 and 2010. Around 75,000 sites in various CITB layouts were under unauthorised occupation, and many original landowners whose land had been acquired already built houses on these sites.

BDA said it was difficult to evict all the unauthorised occupants or demolish structures where people had been living for more than 12 years. In some cases, these occupants were also eligible to be allotted BDA sites because their land had been acquired. Therefore, it would make little sense to remove them from the sites only to allot them new ones later, BDA stated.

Petitioners' claim lacks merit: Bench

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha, noted that the arguments of the petitioners lacked merit. It noted the claim that Section 38-D of BDA Act lacks guiding principles for exercising statutory powers is not correct.

The section allows BDA to allot land in certain situations where acquired or vested land cannot be used because a building already exists on it and it is not practical to include the land in a development scheme or site formation plan. In such cases, the land may be allotted or sold to the original owner, a person who purchased it from the original owner or an unauthorised occupant who is in settled possession of the land. However, the provision does not apply to tenants, licensees or land losers, the court said.

Water issues in 8 dists; Bagalkot demands clearance of arrears

▶ Continued from page 1

Ballari cited compensation demands in Kudatini; Bidar warned of protests by families displaced by the Karanja dam. Vijayapura raised similar issues with those displaced by Almatti project seeking compensation and govt jobs.

Koppal highlighted tensions over the proposed expansion of the Baldota factory, while Vijayanagara reported demands from land losers affected by the Danayakanakere and Nandibandi projects.

Mysuru and Hassan cited compensation demands related to the Srirangapatna-Kushalnagar highway and Yettinahole project.

Agrarian concerns

Around 10 districts flagged farmer-related protests. Bagalkot warned of agitation over pending sugarcane arrears and issues linked to the irrigation project.

Bidar and Bagalkot reported demands for higher sugarcane prices and clearance of arrears, while Haveri pointed to large crowds of farmers purchasing seeds ahead of the monsoon. Gadag flagged protests by farmers opposing wind energy projects.

In Mysuru, opposition to the proposed Himmavu Film City has also drawn farmers into agitation.

Water and irrigation issues surfaced in eight districts. Belagavi highlighted demands relating to irrigation project completion, while Raichur cited concerns over the Tungabhadra West Bank Canal.

Yadgir pointed to tensions over water release through the Narayanapura dam's left bank canal, and Tumakuru flagged issues relating to the Hemavathi Link Canal.

Communal, students' protests

Agitations led by students and job aspirants were the top law-and-order concerns reported in Dharwad and Vijayapura districts, with the latter mentioning All Karnataka State Students Association (AKSSA) as its top concern.

Communal sensitivities were the most widespread concern geographically, with more than half the districts mentioning them.

Muharram, Ganesha, Eid Milad and Dasara were the occasions repeatedly identified as periods requiring heightened vigilance.

BDA's plantation drive on June 27

Bengaluru: BDA is set to plant 15 lakh native saplings across the city on June 27 under its Green Bengaluru initiative, with an aim of creating a Guinness world record.

The plantation drive, being organised on the occasion of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti, will be held under the leadership of CM DK Shivakumar and BDA chairman NA Haris. Volunteers will be provided free bus transport and breakfast. Register at greenbengalurubybda.in. TNN

2 feared drowned while cleaning BWSSB plant tank

Bengaluru: Two workers, both aged 30, are feared to have drowned while cleaning a tank at the BWSSB water treatment plant in Belagere, Varthur, Thursday evening.

The workers are Brijesh, a native of Bihar, and Akhilesh, from Tamil Nadu.

According to police, three workers were cleaning the tank when Brijesh and Akhilesh slipped and fell into it. The third worker was rescued safely. Personnel from fire and emergency services department, along with Varthur police, are carrying out rescue operations. TNN

ALMANAC (19.6.2026)

Mithuna Masa 4 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Greeshma Ritu – Tithi: Nija Jyeshtha Sukla Panchami h. 17-00 Nakshatra: Aslesha h. 10-07 Yoga: Harshana h. 14-54. 3 Muharram Kali Day 187275
Rahu Kalam 10.30am-12pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Break the silence: Stigma cutting short SCD care

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: For nearly a decade, a girl with sickle cell disease was taken to hospitals only during painful emergencies while her family avoided regular treatment for the inherited condition. By the time she consulted a specialist at the age of 10, delayed care left her with a massively enlarged spleen, severe pain and gallstones, eventually requiring surgery to remove both her spleen and gallbladder. Today, at 21, as her family searches for a groom, the same stigma has resurfaced in the form of a new dilemma — whether to disclose her diagnosis to prospective in-laws.

The case is far from isolated and reflects the deep-rooted stigma surrounding this inherited blood disease, doctors say. Fear of judgment often prevents families from disclosing the diagnosis or seeking regular treatment, leading to avoidable complications.

"Studies from India suggest approximately one in four patients and nearly half of caregivers experience substantial stigma related to the condition. This stigma extends beyond medical aspects of the disease and affects social, educational and familial domains," said Dr Vijay Kumar Srinivasalu, senior consultant, medical oncology, Sakra World Hospital.

What is sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited blood disorders caused by an abnormal form of haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The abnormal haemoglobin causes red blood cells to become hard, sticky and sickle- or crescent-shaped, leading to blocked blood flow, severe pain, anaemia and damage to multiple organs over time.

Experts say studies from India suggest approximately one in four patients and nearly half of caregivers experience substantial social stigma related to the health condition

The word "genetic" itself carries a social burden in India. Families often fear being labelled as having "something wrong in their genes", making them reluctant to discuss the condition or seek continuous care. "This attitude is very different from conditions like diabetes or hypertension, where people openly discuss a family history of the disease," said Dr Rasmi Palassery, consultant, department of medical oncology, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Another reason for stigma is the visible physical changes that may develop as the disease progresses. Some children can develop a prominent forehead and cheekbones, a relatively smaller lower jaw, protruding upper teeth, persistent jaundice and short stature, she said. "Because of this stigma, some families avoid bringing children for regular follow-up visits and seek care only during emergencies, missing the continuity of treatment that this disease requires," she added.

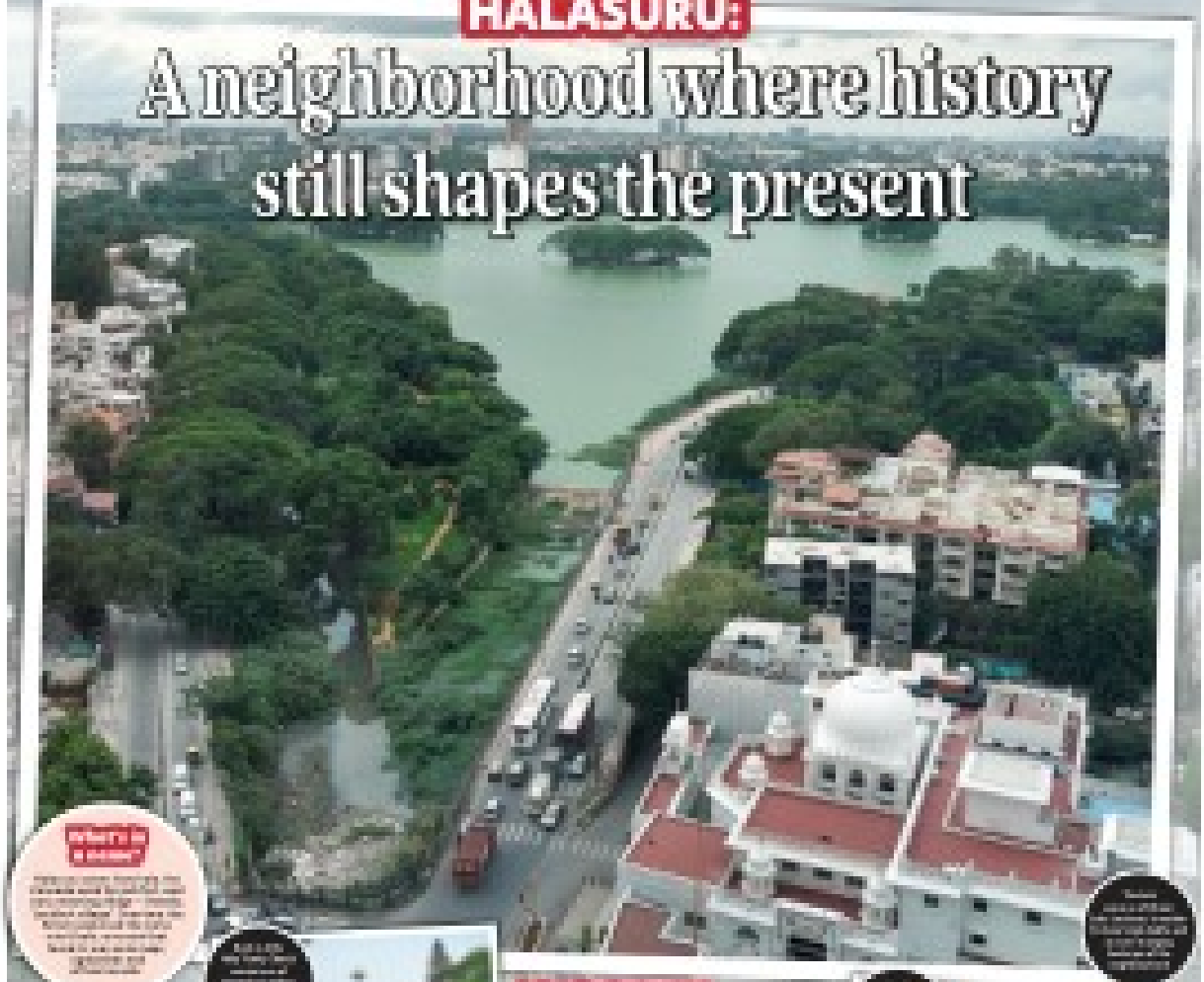
Doctors say stigma also takes a significant emotional toll, particularly on children who do not fully understand their illness. "In school-going children, teachers may not be fully informed, so fatigue, pain episodes or absenteeism are misconstrued as laziness," said Dr Vishakha Panicker, associate consultant, medical oncology, Sparsh Hospital, RR Nagar. She added open communication, age-appropriate counselling and family support can help children feel safe and accepted.

Adolescents face an even greater psychological burden. "They are more aware of social judgement, body image, school performance, friendships and future relationships. They may hide pain, avoid taking medicines in front of friends or feel embarrassed about hospital visits. Many also worry about marriage and career prospects, causing them to be emotionally withdrawn," she said.

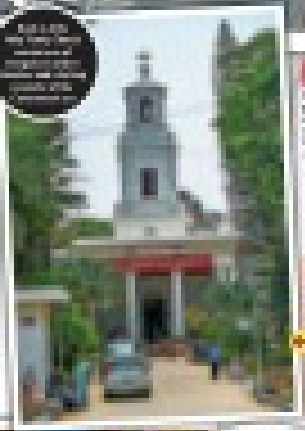
Concerns around marriage and motherhood continue to drive secrecy around the disease. Dr Palassery pointed out that if a person with this disease marries someone who is a carrier, there is a risk that their children could inherit the condition. She also noted many patients are on long-term hydroxyurea, which has implications during pregnancy and requires careful planning and monitoring.

Doctors called for greater public awareness, genetic counselling, early carrier screening and efforts to normalise conversations around SCD to eradicate stigma.

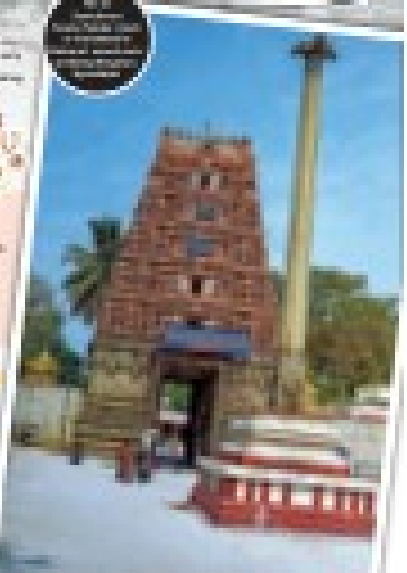
HALASURU: A neighborhood where history still shapes the present



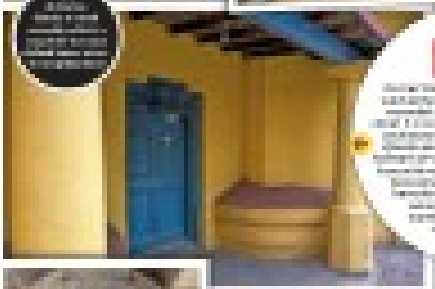
Before the Cantonment



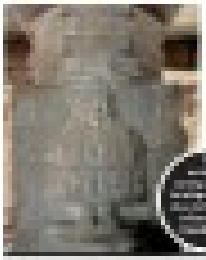
Holy Trinity Church



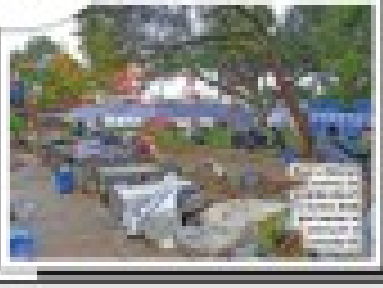
The temple within the city



The house of the dolmen



The people of Halasuru



- The British gave value to the water bodies in Halasuru and built the Sankey Tank and Ulsoor Lake as the cantonment's central source of water, with canals connecting them to the cantonment.
- Halasuru was also home to the Bengaluru Gymkhana Club, which was established in 1868 as a recreational club for the British officers in the cantonment. It is now a private club.
- Halasuru has a Madras Sappers regimental centre, which was established in 1803 as a training ground for military engineers.
- Halasuru has a Tamil community that is over 200 years old. Many Tamil families moved to Halasuru from Tamil Nadu during the British era to work in the cantonment.

No new Metro constructions in 4.5 years as approvals lag

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Chethan Shivakumar

NOT NEW: Ongoing Airport Line project was sanctioned in 2021

Bengaluru: The city's Metro expansion has hit a prolonged pause, with not a single new corridor entering the construction stage in more than four-and-a-half years.

The last project to break ground was the extended Airport Line (KR Pura to KIA), contracts for which were awarded by BMRCL in Nov 2021 and construction commenced in early 2022. Since then, no fresh project has entered execution.

The delay has shifted attention from the familiar issue of late commissioning to a more fundamental concern: absence of new projects reaching the construction stage despite rising travel demand. Two major projects under Phase III and Phase II-IA remain stuck in the approval pipeline.

Under Phase III, the 45-km Orange Line comprises two corridors: JP Nagar 4th Phase-Kempapura and Hosahalli-Kadabagere. The state approved the project in Nov 2022 and forwarded it to the Centre, which approved it in Aug 2024 at an estimated cost of Rs 15,611 crore.

Double-decker corridor

However, state govt's decision to add a 37.1-km double-decker corridor, featuring a road flyover at Level 1 and Metro viaduct at Level 2, introduced fresh delays. The flyover component, costing Rs 9,700 crore, is to be fully funded by the state. Though BMRCL board approved the proposal in May 2025, it later decided in Jan 2026 to engage RITES for a quick study of the revised project structure before submitting it to the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA).

The corporation is now awaiting clearance.

The 37-km Sarjapur-Hebbal corridor under Phase IIIA faces a similar situation. Proposed in 2023 and approved by the state govt in Dec 2024, the line includes a 14.3-km underground stretch and a 23.52-km elevated section. Originally estimated at Rs 28,405 crore, the proposal was sent to the Centre in Jan 2025.

During scrutiny, BMRCL officials said the Centre suggested redesigning underground stations to reduce costs and recommended dropping the proposed station near Veterinary College on Ballari Road. The revised detailed project report brought the project cost down to Rs 25,999 crore.

MoHUA also expressed reservations about the state's proposal for a double-decker structure, arguing that it could dilute the objectives of a mass transit system. BMRCL subsequently engaged IIT Roorkee to examine the feasibility of the concept. The project is awaiting further approvals.

During a recent visit to New Delhi, chief minister DK Shivakumar urged Union housing and urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar to expedite approvals. He pointed out that nearly two years had elapsed since Orange Line received sanction and argued that the double-decker corridor was essential to ease severe congestion.

5% annual cost escalation

Officials said delays in approvals have significant consequences, including annual cost escalation of at least 5%, land acquisition challenges and postponement of critical public transport infrastructure.

Based on the Comprehensive Mobility Plan, a DPR is prepared and submitted to state govt for approval, which forwards it to the Centre. The MoHUA, the nodal ministry, then refers it to Institute of Urban Transport for technical examination, observations and revisions, if required.

The revised DPR submitted circulated among nine ministries, including railways and road transport, and agencies such as NITI Aayog. After the state furnishes the required information and clarifications, Public Investment Board deliberates on the proposal and, if satisfied, forwards it for the Union cabinet.

"Currently, the process takes nearly two years. Any design change introduced midway further prolongs approvals. The Orange Line is a case in point," the source said.

The delays come at a time when Bengaluru's vehicle population has surged rapidly. More than 22.6 lakh vehicles have been added to city roads over the past four-and-a-half years. Yet, after nearly 15 years of operations, Namma Metro's network stands at only 98km, averaging around 6.5km of expansion annually.

Project delays have also inflated costs. Phase II, spanning 72km, was sanctioned at Rs 26,405 crore and scheduled for completion within five years.

Owing to prolonged delays, the revised cost has risen to Rs 40,425 crore, an escalation of nearly 53 percent over the original estimate.

Rights by birth are applicable only to ancestral assets: HC

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Bengaluru: A woman cannot claim a share as a coparcener in the self-acquired properties of her grandfather that came to her father through a family partition, Karnataka high court has ruled.

PROPERTY DISPUTE

Dismissing an appeal filed by Usha N Swamy, a division bench of Justices DK Singh and TM Nadaf held that rights by birth under Hindu law arise only in ancestral joint family properties, and not in self-acquired assets. The June 16 judgment said a person's sons, grandsons and great-grandsons acquire an interest by birth only when the property is inherited from one of the three immediate paternal ancestors under Section 6 of Hindu Succession Act after its amendment on Sept 9, 2005.

Usha, who married in 1979 and now lives in Illinois, US, filed a civil suit in 2014 seeking a share in properties that originally belonged to her grandfather, Muniyappa. The suit came after her father, M Venkataswamy, sold 10 acres of land.

She claimed 107 acres at Kannayana Agrahara village in Anekal taluk, a site in Jayanagar 4th T Block, agricultural lands in Kengeri hobli and a house at Pattabhirama Nagar were ancestral properties in which she had coparcenary rights.

However, Venkataswamy maintained that the properties were his father Muniyappa's self-acquired assets. He said 46 acres had been allotted to him, 51 acres to his brother M Narayanaswamy and 10 acres to their sister Jayamma under a family partition.

Narayanaswamy, who appeared as a witness for Usha, also stated that the properties were self-acquired assets of Muniyappa. The trial court dismissed Usha's suit, prompting her to move the high court.

The bench observed that Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act governs devolution of interest only in ancestral joint family property.

"If the property is a self-acquired one of a member of the family, it will not be treated as joint Hindu family property, and the question of interest of a family member in that property as a coparcener does not arise," the court said. The judges held that property obtained by Venkataswamy through partition or succession remained his separate property. Since Usha failed to prove that the assets were ancestral in the hands of her grandfather, she could not assert any right by birth.

Woman takes key of house from flowerpot, steals jewellery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Leaving the house key in a flowerpot proved costly for a family in Pillaganahalli, south Bengaluru. A woman stole the key when Revathi and her family had gone out, unlocked the house door and fled with gold ornaments worth nearly Rs 2.5 lakh from a cupboard.

On June 10, police recovered 33 grams of the stolen ornaments from the residence of Jayanthi, 34, a resident of Kengeri and a habitual offender.

Revathi told police she and her husband left for work and their children went to her parents' house. They locked the house and kept the key in the flowerpot in front of the house. Upon returning, she found the key missing and the gold ornaments kept in the cupboard stolen.

Police arrested Jayanthi near Annapoorna Layout in Kengeri. A senior officer said, "Jayanthi would target locked houses and search for keys in flowerpots, shoe racks and windows. She is involved in over 11 such cases."

Woman, 74, found dead near farm

Bengaluru: A 74-year-old woman, M Ratnamma, who went missing from her residence, was found murdered near her agricultural land at Koratagere in Tumakuru. Police said gold ornaments on her body are missing, indicating it could be murder for gain.

A widow, Ratnamma lived with her daughter-in-law, Bhagyamma, in Dasulukunte village. Ratnamma lost her husband, Muddabasappa, a few years ago and her son died recently.

"Ratnamma had the habit of walking to the family-owned agricultural land, around 1km from her home. On Tuesday evening, she left home for a walk and did not return. Bhagyamma and others made futile attempts to trace her. Her body was found near a bush the next evening. Miscreants gagged her hands and legs, stuffed cloth into her mouth and strangled her to death," police said. TNN

When a gang looted Rs 7.1 crore from a cash van in daylight in Bengaluru in Nov last year, investigators found the accused had carefully chosen a stretch without CCTV coverage. One of those arrested was a police head constable, who allegedly helped identify the blind spot.

The case stresses how surveillance cameras have become a hurdle for criminals and a key tool for investigators. Karnataka police data shows the rapid expansion of CCTV coverage has coincided with a steady decline in several categories of crime. The number of CCTV cameras across the state rose from around 3 lakh in 2022 to 5 lakh in 2023 and 8 lakh in 2024. By the end of 2025, Karnataka had at least 12 lakh cameras installed.

TIMES *Special*

In the same period, dacoity cases dropped from 216 in 2022 to 176 in 2023, 154 in 2024 and 139 in 2025. Between Jan and May this year, 63 cases were registered. Robbery cases, which stood at 1,066 in 2022, rose briefly to 1,240 in 2023 before falling to 991 in 2024 and 616 in 2025. In the first five months of this year, police recorded 291 robberies.

Chain-snatching cases also declined, from 669 in 2022 to 639 in 2023, 618 in 2024 and 462 in 2025. As many as 168 cases were reported between January and May this year. Murder cases, too, showed a downward trend. The state reported 1,367 murders in 2022, 1,294 in 2023, 1,206 in 2024 and 1,205 in 2025. The first five months of this year saw 464 murders.

ADGP (law and order) Hitendra said criminals are increasingly aware that their movements can be tracked. "Residential areas, commercial hubs, bus stands, railway stations and temples are covered by cameras. Toll plazas on state and national highways also have surveillance systems. These provide crucial clues about the movement of suspects and vehicles. This has contributed to the decline in crime such as dacoity, robbery and chain snatching. Cameras have also helped prevent escalation in violent crime by enabling timely intervention," he said. He said all cameras are geo-tagged.

Bengaluru has seen a similar trend. Robbery cases fell from 674 in 2023 to 559 in 2024 and 296 last year. Dacoity cases declined from 41 to 34 and then to 27 over the same period. House theft cases dropped from 1,705 in 2023 to 1,405 in 2024 and 1,372 in 2025. Chain-snatching cases fell from 160 in 2023 to 73 last year.

Police attribute part of the decline to more than 7,000 CCTV cameras installed under the Nirbhaya scheme. ADGP (administration) Soumendu Mukherjee, who oversaw the project, said cameras were strategically placed at bus stands, railway stations, parks and areas around schools where women and children are more vulnerable. "Many locations were chosen based on past incidents. Surveillance has acted both as a deterrent and an aid to investigations," he said.

As Karnataka's CCTV network expanded fourfold from 3 lakh cameras in 2022 to over 12 lakh by 2025, police data shows a steady decline in dacoity, robbery and murder cases across the state. The trend is mirrored in Bengaluru, where thousands of cameras are installed under Nirbhaya scheme, writes ***Rajiv Kalkod***

CAMS UP, Crime Down

WHAT CHANGED IN KARNATAKA BETWEEN 2022 AND 2025

- CCTV network expands **4 times from 3 lakh to 12 lakh+**
- **36%** fall in dacoity cases
- **42%** decline in robbery
- **31%** dip in chain-snatching
- **12%** decline in murder cases

POSITIVE DECLINE IN BENGALURU

Crime type	2025	2024	2023
Robbery cases	296	559	674
Dacoity	27	34	41
House thefts	1,372	1,405	1,705

Boy, 5, killed as compound wall collapses

Bengaluru: A 5-year-old boy succumbed to injuries and another minor girl fractured her leg when the pillar attached to the compound wall of a house crashed on them at Bandikodigehalli in Bagalur near Yelahanka Wednesday evening.

The deceased, D Afeen, was the only child of Daval Saab and Razia Begum, from Yadgir in north Karnataka, who moved to the city just a week earlier. Saab was looking for a driver's job, and Razia Begum started working in a garment unit.

The injured girl, Samanvi Gowda, who was visiting her grandparents, is undergoing treatment at Yelahanka govt hospital.

The tragedy took place at 6.30pm when Afeen, Samanvi and other children were playing near the gate of the house owned by Narasappa, who is around 70 years old. "Suddenly, the pillar fixed to the gate crashed on Afeen and Samanvi. Afeen sustained head injuries, while Samanvi's right thigh bone broke," police said, adding that a case of causing death due to negligence was registered against Narasappa.

Daily wage worker falls to death from 4th floor

A 32-year-old daily wage worker, Rajkumar, a resident of Annapoorneshwarinagar and originally from Bihar, fell to his death from the fourth floor of an under-construction building in Chamundinagar Thursday. TNN

FIR not justified: Activists

▸ Continued from page 1

Police registered an FIR against those involved in the interception, prompting strong opposition from some organisations.

Activists argued the FIR was unjustified.

Former chairman of Western Ghats Task Force, Govind Naik, expressed strong displeasure over police action. He termed charges of assault and criminal intimidation against the activists — who had stopped the vehicle and handed the individuals over to police — unfair.

₹2k crore earmarked to upgrade ward rds, corpns told to buck up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bengaluru development minister **Krishna Byre Gowda** Thursday said Rs 2,000 crore has been earmarked for upgrading ward roads, with all five corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority directed to prepare ward-level road plans within two months.

After a review meeting, Gowda said the grant will be used exclusively for improving internal roads, which will be given priority over arterial ones. "Arterial stretches can be taken up wherever there is scope, but ward roads remain our priority," he said.

The minister said each corporation has been asked to identify roads requiring repairs, estimate costs and complete tendering within two months. Civic bodies will then have six months to execute the works. The announcement comes amid persistent complaints over potholes and poor roads in several parts of Bengaluru.

Acknowledging concerns over roads being dug up soon after resurfacing, Gowda said officials have been directed to coordinate with utility agencies during the planning stage itself. "All pending underground utility works should be completed during the two-month planning period. We will make every effort to avoid freshly asphalted roads from being cut again," he pointed out.

Officials warned over improper waste collection

Gowda expressed dissatisfaction over irregular door-to-door garbage collection and warned officials and contractors of strict action if waste continues to accumulate on roads and public spaces.

He said Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd is facing shortage of drivers, collectors and auto-tippers, resulting in reduced service levels in some areas.

Until new work orders are issued, existing contractors will continue providing the services, the minister said.

Toddler falls from first-floor staircase, dies

Bengaluru: A freak accident claimed the life of a two-year-old boy, N Deekshit Aaradhya, who succumbed to severe head injuries after falling from a first-floor staircase of a relative's home at Totadaguddahalli in Nelamangala Tuesday evening.

The toddler's father, Naveen Kumar, a cab driver, and mother Kavya, a homemaker, are residents of Dasarahalli. Deekshit was playing outside the front door of their relative's home on the first floor when he accidentally lost balance and fell from the staircase.

The toddler's parents rushed him to a nearby private hospital, but he failed to respond to treatment and passed away Thursday. TNN

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Crowd-fav Indiranagar Metro walkway falls silent

Plaza Shut Over Breach Of Conditions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Until a few weeks ago, the colourful pedestrian plaza beneath the viaduct near Indiranagar Metro station was packed with visitors. On most evenings, people gathered there to eat, socialise and unwind. Today, the once-bustling space stands silent and inaccessible.

When **TOI** visited the area last week, a white gate was found to be blocking public access to the plaza. A security guard stationed at the entrance ensured no one entered the premises. The walkway houses around 10 eateries in its two-storey structures and includes seating areas for visitors. The property, owned by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), had been leased out to a private firm, which in turn subleased spaces to restaurants and advertisers.

TOI

UNCERTAINTY: The popular unwinding place in Indiranagar has been closed and sealed by the Namma Metro operator for almost a month

Decorated with rainbow-themed festoons and marketed aggressively on social media through its own Instagram page, the plaza quickly became a popular hangout spot. Its colourful aesthetics and vibrant atmosphere attracted large crowds, particularly young visitors.

However, urban planners and safety experts had raised concerns about commercial activity operating in close proximity to the Metro viaduct. "The place has been closed for the past 15-20 days. It has been locked and we don't know when it will reopen," a security guard said.

> **They (leaseholder) haven't followed the guidelines, so we had to take action. We've terminated the agreement with the party and they have approached court**
> — BMRCL OFFICIAL

According to BMRCL sources, the facility was shut after the licensee allegedly failed to comply with conditions laid down in the agreement signed with Metro authority. A BMRCL official said, "They haven't followed guidelines, so we had to take action. We have terminated the agreement and they have since approached the court."

As the matter is currently in court, BMRCL declined to comment officially. Sources said a fresh tender for the space can be floated only after the legal dispute is resolved.

While the plaza had emerged as a popular recreational space, some civic activists argued that public land was being excessively commercialised. "BMRCL should generate revenue through Metro operations, not by commercialising public spaces. I had written to BMRCL twice requesting that the area be developed as a street-vending zone," said Sneha Nandiyal, a civic activist.

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OUT WITH OLD In Poll Manifesto, Cong Promised To Also Repeal BJP Govt's Anti-conversion Law | Cong's Fifth Candidate Gets Most Votes

Cong's decisive win opens door to overturn anti-cow slaughter law

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Bengaluru: Congress' decisive victory in legislative council elections Thursday has altered numbers in their favour in the Upper House, reviving the possibility of action on two contentious laws pass by the previous BJP govt — the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, and the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022.

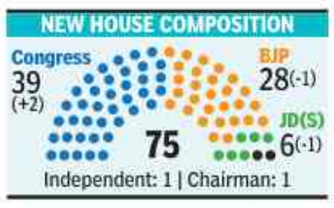
With the party winning five of the seven council seats and securing a clear majority, functionaries say the govt is now better placed to pursue long-pending promises that were politically difficult when the opposition held greater sway over the council.

The repeal of the laws was part of Congress' 2023 election manifesto and while discussions between the govt and the law department on repealing the laws have been on, Thursday's result has strengthened the party's ability to translate those deliberations into legislation.

"We were waiting for a clear majority in both Houses," an MLC said, adding that the BJP-JD(S) alliance would no longer be able to block the party's legislative agenda.

Chethan Shivakumar

VICTORIOUS LOT: Congress candidates (from left) Vinay Karthik, Shivanna Malavalli, Tippanna Kamaknoor, PV Mohan, and BK Hariprasad celebrate after winning in the legislative council elections at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday



> There is an important difference between the former CM and the current CM. The new CM is far more responsive to the need to protect the party's image as perceived by the majority community as well. If he is looking at the next elections, it may be important
> **Sandeep Shastri** | POLITICAL ANALYST

Differences in Congress

However, the debate within the governing party is far from settled. While a section favours outright repeal, another is pushing for amendments that address concerns raised by minority communities while avoiding a wider political backlash.

"Under the current CM, we may consider a middle path to ensure Congress does not face a backlash from the majority community," another legislator said.

The discussion reflects a broader political calculation within Congress. During Siddaramaiah's tenure, several sensitive issues were deferred to avoid social polarisation. Now, some Congress members believe revisiting the two laws could help reconnect with minority communities at a time when the party is facing criticism over its outreach.

The strengthened position in the council could further aid such efforts. Congress is expected to secure the posts of chairman and deputy chairman of the council when the opportunity arises, giving it greater control over functioning of the House. At present, the posts are held by BJP members Basavaraj Horatti and MK Pranesh.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri said the issue is as much about electoral strategy as legislative arithmetic. "They may gain political capital but there are implications to the decision which need to be considered," he said. "For instance, can they ensure approval from the governor or President of India as the case may be. They may consider it as a demonstration of their intent but more importantly, with polls in 2028 and given the approach of the new CM, it does not look like they want to take on a backlash from the majority community."

Significant cross-voting bares cracks in BJP-JD(S) alliance

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Bengaluru: While Congress basked in a comfortable five-seat win in the legislative council elections Thursday, the BJP-JD(S) bloc was left to hunt for 'black sheep' since the final tally pointed to significant cross-voting in opposition ranks.

While there was evidence of betrayal, there was no clear trail to the culprits.

Congress candidate Vinay Karthik emerged the highest vote-getter with 32 votes, comfortably ahead of the required number and significantly above what Congress could have secured on its own.

The tally suggested that he may have polled at least a dozen votes from BJP and JD(S) legislators.

The figures immediately triggered accusations and counter-accusations within the alliance. While BJP insisted only three legislators from its camp had cross-voted — apart from rebel MLAs already under suspicion — party functionaries alleged that at least eight JD(S) legislators had backed Congress candidates.

JD(S) functionaries rejected the claim and argued that only four votes could have come from their ranks, with the remaining support originating from BJP legislators.

TOI

CROWN OF... BJP president BY Vijayendra felicitates the party's winning candidates Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya (left) at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday. JD(S) candidate Govind Raju bit the dust

TALLY-HO

Vinay Karthik	32
Thippanna	30
Shivanna	30
Hariprasad	30
PV Mohan	29
Raghu Kautilya	29
Lingaraj Patil	27
Govind Raju	14

GT Devegowda and MR Manjunath of JD(S) and BJP's Ramesh Jarkiholi, BP Harish, M Chandrappa and HK Suresh were immediately under the lens, but all of them denied cross-voting.

The secret ballot has complicated efforts to establish responsibility. Unlike open voting, where party whips can verify compliance, the council election process leaves room for plenty of suspicion but little scope for proof.

That uncertainty has deepened unease within the alliance. State BJP president BY Vijayendra struck a stern note, saying the party would identify the 'black sheep' and initiate appropriate action. JD(S) state president and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy refused to comment.

Meanwhile, buoyed by what he described as his first electoral victory after oath as CM, DK Shivakumar sought to play down the speculation. "I have no idea who cross-voted," he said.

The results are a huge blow to JD(S), a party already facing an existential crisis. The defeat is likely to force brass to pay greater attention to second-rung leaders and internal dissent. For BJP too, the outcome is troubling. It could strengthen claims by dissidents that the party is suffering from a leadership drift. They could mount pressure to remove Vijayendra.

Disgruntled legislators invoke 'atmasakshi' to justify votes

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Bengaluru: The legislative council polls Thursday saw the return of a familiar political phrase — atmasakshi or voting according to one's conscience — as rebel BJP and JD(S) legislators sought to explain their choices.

The term, often associated with political defections and rebellion, was used freely as legislators revealed attempts by rival camps to secure their support.

Expelled BJP MLA Shivaram Hebbar, who aligned with Congress after the 2023 assembly elections, said BJP never approached him for support. "I waited till the last minute, but they didn't even call," he said, declining to reveal who he voted for. "But both chief minister DK Shivakumar and former CM Siddaramaiah contacted me and sought my support, so I voted as per my conscience. Perhaps, BJP wants JD(S) to lose."

ST Somashekar, another rebel BJP legislator who has also moved closer to Congress, was more explicit about his choice. "Hebbar and I were hoping till last evening that BJP would request our support," he said. "However, the CM called us and sought our votes. We assured support provided they ensure adequate funds for development work in our constituencies. So, I went with my conscience and voted for Congress."

PTI

FRIENDS ACROSS LINES: DK Shivakumar with expelled BJP legislators ST Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday

No call from friend too

Somashekar said that despite his friendship with JD(S) candidate Govindaraju, the latter did not contact him.

Meanwhile, JD(S) rebel GT Devegowda, dismissed allegations of cross-voting. "I was not keeping well, so I came early to vote," he said. "HD Kumaraswamy knows how to ensure the victory of the JD(S) candidate. He will do what is necessary. I voted according to my conscience. I voted for the party candidate and if anyone has doubts, let him/her prove that I cross-voted."

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal publicly declared support for the BJP candidate and said he wanted to put speculation to rest. "I announced my support to BJP to avoid speculation that I took money from Congress," he said.

Yatnal said opposition leader R Ashoka and former deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayan had contacted him on instructions from the party high command. "The 49 BJP MLAs also called and sought my support from a Hindutvavadi against nepotism and corruption. So, I followed my conscience and voted for BJP," he said, displaying a letter addressed to BJP national president Nitin Nabin conveying his support for the party candidate.

HM: Is RSS only for socially superior?

Reacting to BJP MP Ramesh Jigajinagi's remark on why a Dalit should be concerned about the functioning of RSS, home minister Priyank Kharge Thursday said, as a follower of BR Ambedkar, he is afraid of no one. "Is he cautioning Dalits not to associate with RSS? Does he believe in a hierarchical social order and that RSS was formed to safeguard the interests of those with a sense of social superiority?" Priyank asked.

Jigajinagi had criticised Priyank for seeking details about the functioning of RSS, questioning why he was focusing on the organisation instead of his responsibilities. Referring to the Priyank's recent letter to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, the MP said: "Is it his job to ask such questions? All who came in the way of RSS did not survive. Why does this Dalit man need to be concerned about RSS?" TNN

Mekedatu dam will help TN more than us: DKS

Bengaluru: Defending the proposed Mekedatu reservoir project, CM DK Shivakumar said it would benefit Tamil Nadu as much as Karnataka and reiterated that the state was committed to releasing 177tmc of Cauvery water to the neighbouring state as mandated by the Supreme Court.

Responding to Tamil Nadu governor RV Arlekar's call to halt the project and chief minister C Joseph Vijay's appeal to PM Modi to reject the detailed project report, Shivakumar said the reservoir was aimed at ensuring drinking water security for Bengaluru and regulating water releases during distress years.

"Mekedatu is not only close to my heart, it is in the heart of entire South India," he said. Stressing that Mekedatu was only a balancing reservoir, he said, "Not even a bucket of water" would be used for irrigation.

The CM insisted that the reservoir would not reduce Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water but instead help ensure timely releases downstream while preventing large quantities of water from flowing unused into the sea. "Last year, more than 400tmc of water flowed into the sea. Who is responsible for that?" he asked.

He said he was ready to discuss the issue with Tamil Nadu any time. "Whether it is TN or Karnataka, we are all Indians. We all depend on the same river and the same water," he said. TNN

SHORT TAKES

Yatnal's disclosure sparks dispute

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's public declaration of the candidate he intended to support sparked a dispute between Congress and BJP. Congress' AS Ponnanna, former legal adviser to the CM, revealed VS Ugrappa, former MP who served as Congress' polling agent, objected to Yatnal allegedly violating ballot secrecy by brandishing a letter revealing his choice of candidate. Ponnanna said that before a formal objection could be raised seeking that his vote be placed in a separate box, Yatnal had already cast his ballot. The returning officer ruled that events outside the polling premises were beyond her jurisdiction, while pointing out that ballot secrecy was maintained in the voting booth. Meanwhile, N Ravikumar, BJP MLC, accused Ugrappa of breaching norms. "He showed the letter and raised questions, which isn't allowed. It was supposed to be a peaceful voting process," he said.

Cops mistake Siddaramaiah for commoner, halt vehicle

A minor security mix-up led to police briefly stopping former CM Siddaramaiah's convoy at Vidhana Soudha's West Gate. Police personnel failed to notice that it was Siddaramaiah's car which closely followed the escort vehicle and flagged it down. Escort staff quickly alerted the officers to their error. The convoy was allowed to proceed without delay when the officers realised their mistake.

From hospital to voting booth

Health concerns did not stop three legislators from casting their vote. Congress' Bharamgouda Alagouda Kage, better known as Raju Kage, arrived at the polling booth in a wheelchair. Later in the day, Ramanagara MLA HA Iqbal Hussain, who recently suffered a cardiac issue and was in hospital until Wednesday, also turned up to vote. He was accompanied by CM DK Shivakumar. Deputy CM G Parameshwara also voted despite being unwell. He was seen with a cannula attached to his hand and was accompanied by home minister Priyank Kharge when he left the venue.

Tailpiece

End resort politics: BJP veteran

Senior BJP legislator and former minister, Suresh Kumar, called for an end to the practice of shifting MLAs to resorts, saying it undermines public faith in the political system and sends the wrong message to voters. He was referring to Congress and JD(S) housing their MLAs in resorts in Bidadi and Devanahalli ahead of the elections. "This culture should end," Kumar said. "The thought that MLAs are purchasable or can be hijacked sends a very wrong message to voters. Soon, they may start 'hoarding' voters at resorts before general elections."

Woman gets 7-yr jail for killing man after phone refusal

Belagavi: A court in Belagavi sentenced a 48-year-old woman to seven years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 for murdering a man after he refused to hand over his phone for making a call.

The convict, identified as Jayashree Pavan Pawar, a native of Dandeli in Uttara Kannada district and a resident of BK Kangrali in Belagavi, was found guilty in the death of Nagaraj Bhimshi Ragipatil, 36.

According to the prosecution, the incident occurred on the night of April 30, 2023, near Dora Galli Cross on the way to Keerti Hotel, under jurisdiction of Market police station.

Nagaraj was travelling on a motorcycle with his friend when Jayashree stopped them and asked for his phone to make a call. When Nagaraj questioned her demand, she lost her cool, abused him and stabbed him in the chest with a knife. He was rushed to a govt hospital but succumbed to injuries during treatment.

The court noted, based on medical evidence, the accused was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. Following a complaint lodged by Nagaraj's friend, Market police registered a case. The probe was carried out by inspector Paul Priyakumar, who later filed a chargesheet in court. Justice Manjunath Nayak convicted Jayashree and sentenced her to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, along with Rs 25,000.

The court recommended that District Legal Services Authority provide compensation to the victim's family. Public prosecutor Narayan Ari represented the prosecution. TNN

Cops shouldn't be allowed to probe purely civil cases: HC

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The high court has ruled that police must not be allowed to investigate purely civil matters, while strongly disapproving of increasing instances of advocates being arraigned as accused in such cases.

Quashing proceedings in three criminal cases relating to a disputed will on 5 acres 20 guntas of land in Nagarabhavi, Justice M Nagaprasanna observed in a recent order that police must exercise "investigative restraint" in disputes on title deeds, revenue entries, powers of attorney or sale deeds unless allegations clearly suggest criminality.

At the same time, the court said the criminal justice system, too, must do its homework on two fronts: During investigation and chargesheet; during the stage of framing charges by court. At both stages, courts enjoy power to stop proceedings which amount to abuse of process.

S Rajendra, an advocate who appeared on behalf of some of the parties in the case, was arraigned as an accused in the three cases wherein cheating, forgery and other offences were alleged. The counsel for Rajendra submitted that just because the petitioner represented the parties before revenue authorities, he was arraigned as an accused.

Complainants argued that Rajendra earlier handled a civil suit in 2001, knowing well that his father-in-law had entered into a sale agreement.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted the complaint suggests a narrative was built around decades-old civil proceedings among the parties. No concrete cause of action from Aug 20, 2023 (date of complaint) was articulated in any of the complaints barring tampering with documents, he said.

On advocates being dragged into criminal proceedings, he observed that court records its "deep disquiet at this disturbing trend". The only "fault" is that advocates appeared for clients before a judicial forum, the court said.

Boy, 10, falls from school building, dies

Navalgund (Dharwad): A 10-year-old student died after falling from the first floor of his school building at a private educational institution in Navalgund town of Dharwad district Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Akash Neelannavar, a class IV student of Vidyajyothi Primary School. According to police, Akash sustained severe injuries after falling from the first-floor balcony of the school building. He was rushed to a hospital, but succumbed to injuries before he could receive medical attention.

The exact circumstances leading to the incident remain unclear. Police said it is yet to be ascertained whether the boy accidentally fell from the building or was pushed by someone. The incident triggered outrage among parents, who staged a protest, and alleged that the balcony walls were not high enough to ensure the safety of children and demanded a thorough investigation into the tragedy.

Navalgund police registered a case of unnatural death and launched an inquiry. The body was shifted to KIMS Hospital, Hubballi, for postmortem examination. TNN

Traders seek end to tobacco sale harassment

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Many residents were left without their morning cup of tea and cigarette Thursday as hundreds of neighbourhood tea stalls, pan shops and cigarette stalls remained shut. Traders had gathered at Freedom Park to protest the alleged harassment by police and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) marshals.

Thousands of traders owning pan shops, bakeries, condiment stores and other small establishments participated in the protest organised under the banner of Karnataka State Labour Council. They urged the govt to act against manufacturers and suppliers of tobacco products instead of targeting small retailers. They demanded amendments to rules to permit the sale of loose cigarettes, arguing that selling only full packets is not commercially viable for them. Karnataka State Labour Council activist, Ravi Shetty (Byndoor) accused authorities of selective enforcement.

TOI

Labour council workers protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru Thursday

"Police and marshals target small traders instead of acting against large companies that manufacture and supply tobacco products," he said. Traders alleged officials routinely seize tobacco products and fail to return them even after fines are paid, resulting in losses. Jithin T, a trader from Horamavu, said the problem becomes particularly severe around World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

"We have no option but to close our shops so that our stock is not seized," he said. A native of Kannur in Kerala, Jithin added many traders temporarily return to their hometowns during this period to avoid losses.

Bhojaraj MS, a trader from Vijayanagar, claimed, "Authorities want supply to continue so that tax revenues are not affected. At the same time, they harass us, sometimes using foul language."

Another trader, Sudhakar N from Vidyaranyapura, said fines often run into several thousands. He alleged in some cases, officers accepted smaller amounts and returned only part of the seized stock. They demanded an end to the alleged harassment, transparent enforcement of tobacco regulations and amendments to rules governing cigarette sales.

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OBITUARY
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SAD DEMISE

Mr. ROHAN KAMATH
Born 11th Aug 1963
Died 17th June 2026
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Rohan Kamath. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace.
Funeral - Friday 19th June, 11am, St. Patrick's Church, Bengaluru.
"Remembering you in our hearts forever"
Son of Norma & Late Tarcy Kamath, brother of Fr. Vinay & Geetha, Peter, Annamarie, Angeli and Alex

REMEMBRANCES
REMEMBERING OF OUR BELOVED

G V GURURAJ
The silence of the morning feels deafening without you. I wake up everyday with a longing so deep that it brings tears to my eyes. Every day without you feels like a piece of me is missing. A limb has fallen from the family tree.
Remembering the best times we lived with you. Go on with your lives. Keep your chin. May your soul rest in peace until we are together again.
We miss you all dearly.
Rita Gururaj, Ajay Akash, Rachana, Smidhu & Annika

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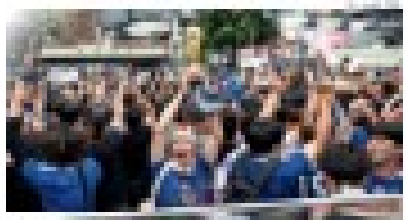
REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

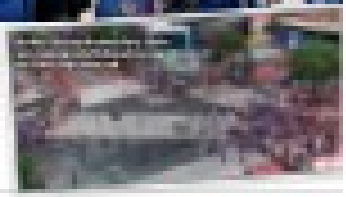
14th Death Anniversary
CHIKKAGOWDARA N R GURUMURTHY REDDY
10.03.1994 to 19.06.2012
In our memories you live forever - We miss you APPU.
Chikka Gowdara N R Raveendra & Family.

In Japan, civic sense comes before fandom



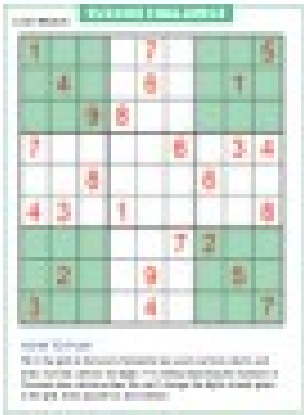
The six second party window

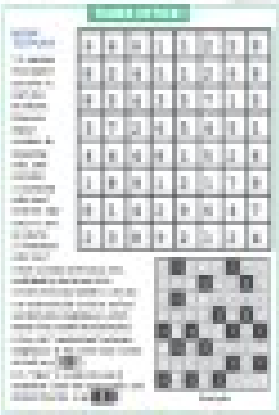
When the traffic light becomes the road to love

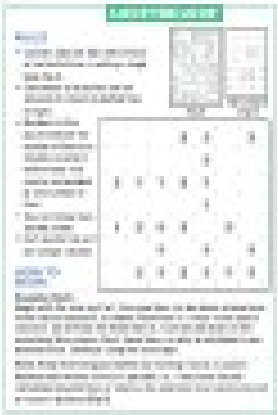


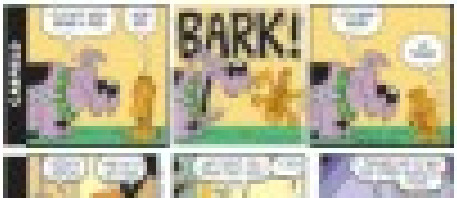
This is the year of the mango. And no one's complaining

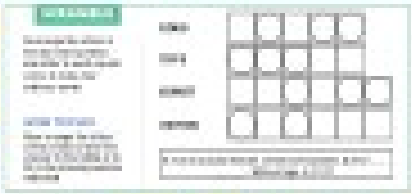
POV

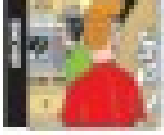


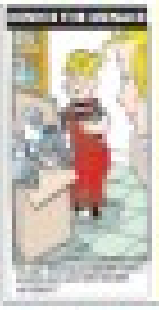












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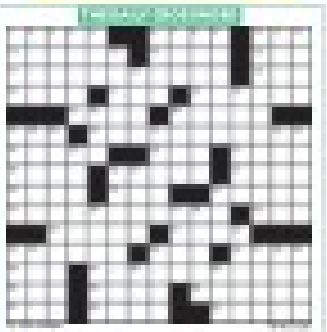
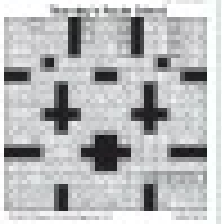
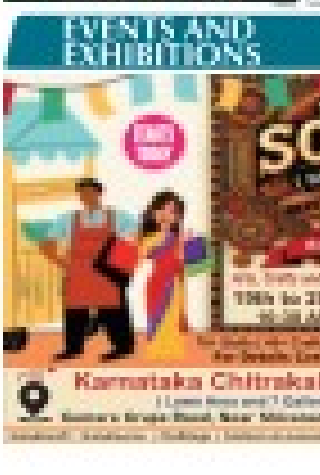
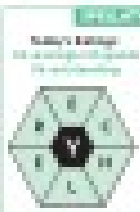


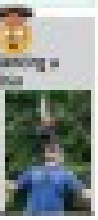


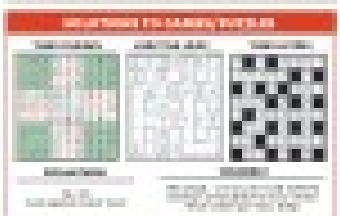


EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath







TIMES NATION
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

FIR AGAINST SP MLA FOR MAKING OBJECTIONABLE REMARKS AGAINST BJP MP KANGANA RANAUT

COPS WILL ACT AGAINST THOSE WHO CHALLENGE LAW, BIHAR CM SAMRAT CHOUDHARY WARNS CRIMINALS

In blow to Cong, J'khand cross-voting hands BJP-backed Nathwani RS seat

A Fraud Has Been Perpetrated On Us, Says State Cong Mantri

ASRP Mukesh & HC Vanlalruata | TNN

Ranchi/Aizawl: NDA-backed independent Parimal Nathwani gatecrashed Congress's hopes of a Rajya Sabha berth from Jharkhand, springing a surprise in Thursday's polls that exposed cracks within INDIA bloc ranks, while governing Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) comfortably pocketed Mizoram's lone Upper House seat.

Contests in MP, Karnataka and Rajasthan ended June 11, the day withdrawal of nominations closed. BJP won three seats in MP, Congress three and BJP one in Karnataka, while BJP secured two seats and Congress one in Rajasthan — all unopposed.

Jharkhand's contest went down to wire. In the 81-member assembly, INDIA bloc held a clear edge with 56 MLAs — 34 from JMM, 16 from Congress, four from RJD and two from CPI-ML Liberation — against NDA's 24. Under a 1:1 seat-sharing pact, JMM fielded former minister Baidyanath Ram and Congress nominated Pranav Jha.

Ram won 30 votes and Nathwani secured 28, enough to clinch the second berth. Jha finished third with 20 votes. Three ballots were declared invalid.

"An independent candidate has once again resorted to horse-trading under BJP's patronage. While our own MLAs and four from JMM remained intact, MLAs from RJD and CPI-ML did not support us," Congress's Jharkhand affairs in-charge K Raju alleged.

CPI-ML rejected Congress's allegations. State secretary Manoj Bhakt said both its MLAs voted for Jha. "Congress is resorting to baseless rhetoric to conceal its own weaknesses," he said.

Nathwani's victory sends him to RS from Jharkhand for a third time

BJP hailed the result as legislators voting according to their conscience.

In Mizoram, ZPM candidate K Laltluangkima (63) cruised to victory. Returning officer Zothansanga Ralte said the turnout was 36 in the 40-member assembly. ZPM's W Chhuanawma did not vote because of health issues, while two BJP MLAs and the lone Congress legislator abstained. Mizo National Front, which has 10 MLAs, fielded Zothansangi Hmar. Sources said Laltluangkima secured 26 votes against Hmar's 10.

Cong fails to get its pick elected, renewed focus on alliance trouble

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress's troubles with its allies came to the fore again Thursday with the party failing to get its candidate elected to Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand despite the numbers being in INDIA bloc's favour.

Jharkhand Congress incharge K Raju, who was also the polling agent for the election, told reporters, "RJD and CPI-ML Liberation betrayed us." Asked if the result would have an impact on the alliance, Raju said he would discuss the matter with CM Hemant Soren.

CPI-ML Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said in a post on X, "Before pointing fingers at others, larger parties should first look within... This is not merely an attempt to malign CPI-ML, but an effort that harms the image of the entire INDIA bloc."

Significantly, Raju chose not to comment on JMM allotting 30 votes to its candidate Ram when he needed 28, something that had the same effect as "sabotage" by CPI-ML — denial of two votes to Jha.

Soren is learned to have been unhappy over Congress announcing Jha's name without taking JMM into confidence. This friction escalated into a standoff within INDIA bloc, with JMM hinting it could field candidates for both seats. Though Congress appeared to have sorted out the matter by rushing ex-Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and others to mollify Soren, the decision to allot Ram more votes than needed raises doubts over whether the attempt was successful.

The loss has hit Congress hard because nominee Pranav Jha is someone who has come up through the ranks.

HC: Attack on MP is attack on Parliament's sovereignty

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@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: An attack on an MP is tantamount to an attack on the sovereignty of Parliament itself, Andhra Pradesh HC observed Thursday.

The Andhra Pradesh high court was hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by an IPS officer, Sunil Kumar Naik, in a case of alleged custodial torture of Raghurama Krishna Raju, former Lok Sabha member and current AP assembly deputy speaker.

Justice Y Lakshmana Rao said there was little difference between those who physically attack Parliament and those who subject an MP to custodial torture. The judge asked whether pre-arrest bail should be used as a shield by an IPS officer facing such serious allegations.

The case dates back to YSRCP govt's tenure in May 2021 when Raju was arrested by Andhra's CID. Raju, then MP from Narasapuram, was arrested on charges of sedition (inciting hatred against the state).

He had alleged that CID officers tied his legs and used belts and batons to assault him inside the agency's office.

Raju was an Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party MP but later began criticising the YSRCP govt and chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

HACK OF THE DAY — HOW TO BUILD A SMART HOME ON A BUDGET OF UNDER 10K

WHAT IT SOLVES: Creates a connected, energy-saving home without paying for expensive premium ecosystems upfront

WHAT TO DO: Pick Alexa or Google Home, then buy compatible entry-level devices in phases

STEPS:

1. Buy smart plugs (under ₹1K) to control appliances remotely
2. Add budget smart bulbs (₹600-1.2K) to schedule lighting
3. Integrate a smart speaker (₹3-4K) as a voice-central hub
4. For security, add smart cameras & door sensors (under ₹3K)
5. Set routines for bedtime, leaving home, and power saving

NOTE: Mixing incompatible cross-ecosystems can cause control failures. Check Alexa or Google support before buying

SCAN FOR MORE HACKS

Tip: heena.gupta@timesinternet.in. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules.

'Mowgli' girl dies in Lucknow hosp

Nearly a decade after a frightened girl found wandering through the dense forests of Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district captured the nation's imagination as the real-life "Mowgli", her journey ended earlier this week. TNN

SPOTLIGHT

pfrda NPS Insights

What is nomination under NPS?

Nomination is a process of designating of any or more persons to receive corpus of NPS in case of unfortunate death of a subscriber.

What are the Nomination rules under NPS?

- Nomination is mandatory under NPS.
- If a subscriber has a family at the time of making a nomination, the nomination shall be in favour of one or more persons belonging to his/her family.
- Subscriber can nominate up to three nominees and can assign percentage of accumulated pension wealth among them.
- A fresh nomination is required to be made by the subscriber upon his/her marriage.

What is the definition of family?

- Spouse
- Children
- His/Her parents
- Her husband's parents
- His/Her deceased son's widow and children

How many times can a subscriber modify the nomination?

A subscriber can change the nomination any number of times.

Subscriber Education and Protection Fund (SEPF) Initiative, by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

Family's Covid-era sacrifice drives U-19 skipper's success

Ramendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: In 2020, a boy asked for a cricket bat of premium willow. The Covid lockdown had shut down the family's civil construction business in Chambal and it was a luxury they could ill afford, but his father took a loan and bought one for Rs 65,000.

It was an expensive gamble. But that "KL Rahul" series bat is now repaying the loan, not in rupees but in runs and resolve. And the boy from the badlands of Chambal, once known for its dacoits, is the new India Under-19s cricket captain.

Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan, a promising uncapped cricketer and his family's youngest member (he turns 18 in Nov), leads India against Sri Lanka in the upcoming series.

It was early 2020 when Yashbardhan, already showing promise as a batsman, asked for the bat. His innocent request initially put frowns on the faces of the family elders. Their business contracts had just been cancelled. Every penny counted.

His father, Anami Singh Chauhan, had then described the purchase as "our biggest bet on his dream". The spanking new willow fetched bountiful returns: Yash amassed 1,300 runs with it in the Under-13 Kanmadikar Trophy in 2021, drawing the attention of selectors and coaches.

Yashbardhan Singh's father called the Rs 65,000 bat 'our biggest bet on his dream'

Every boundary off that bat felt like a small repayment for all the anxious nights that had preceded the purchase, the family said.

"I told Yashbardhan to always keep that KL Rahul series bat with him. That bat effectively set him on his cricketing journey," said an elated Chauhan, currently in the flour mill business in Gwalior.

The bat became talismanic. Yash carried it around like an accessory, from practice to matches, from small grounds to tournament halls, a symbol of the family's sacrifice and hope. While teammates occasionally borrowed his gloves or pads, the willow was never loaned.

When a senior Ranji player once asked him if he could use it, Yashbardhan refused. Not out of arrogance, the family insisted, but out of reverence for what the bat represented: a father's faith in his son in a time of crisis.

"This bat carries my deepest emotions. I can never share this willow with anyone," Yashbardhan told **TOI**.

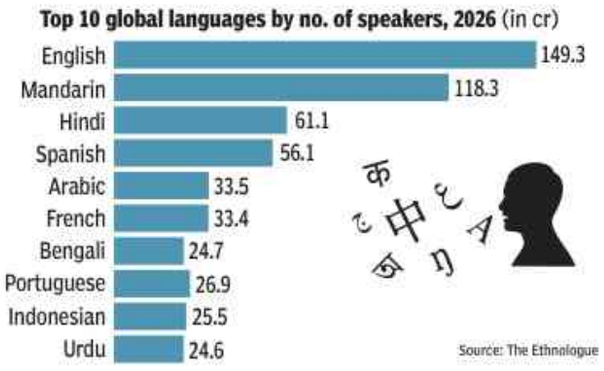
Now, national duty calls as Board of Control for Cricket in India has appointed him U-19 captain. Selectors cited his consistent run-scoring, temperament under pressure, and quiet respect within the dressing room as reasons for putting the weight of leadership on his young shoulders.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Three Indian languages among world's top 10

Nearly 90% of people in the world speak one of these languages – as their mother tongue or second language. Apart from Hindi, Bengali and Urdu feature among most widely spoken languages

Top 10 global languages by no. of speakers, 2026 (in cr)



U'khand declares itself fully literate, becomes sixth in country to do so

Kautilya.Singh@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: With the literacy rate crossing 98%, the Uttarakhand cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal declaring the state fully literate after meeting the threshold set under the Centre's 'ULLAS' — Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society — programme. After the cabinet's nod, the proposal will be moved to the Centre; and Uttarakhand will become the sixth state in the country to achieve the feat. Other states to attain the fully literate status under the central govt scheme are Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Ladakh holds the distinction of being the first Union Territory fully certified under the scheme.

Under the programme, a state is considered fully literate once its adult education rate reaches 95% or more, alongside achieving the broader goal of providing education to all previously non-literate residents. CM Pushkar Singh Dhami said, "It is a matter of pride for all residents. This achievement is the result of collective efforts of the state's teachers, students, voluntary organisations, administrative officers and public representatives."

'Hang me', Delhi doc tells cops after killing help with kitchen knife

Devanshi.Mehta
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New Delhi: A 50-year-old doctor was arrested Thursday for allegedly killing his domestic help of over 15 years at his residence in Delhi's Mount Kailash on Thursday. Police suspect an argument with his wife over sacking the maid may have prompted the accused, who was undergoing psychiatric treatment, to commit the murder.

The accused, Dr Manish Gupta, a dermatologist, was found sitting on the stairs inside the building. When police reached the spot, Gupta told them 'hang me'. A bat and a blood-stained kitchen knife were recovered from the scene.

The victim, Meena, 45, was found lying in a pool of blood on the terrace of the bungalow after a resident of an opposite tower spotted her. Gupta had been undergoing treatment for depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder for nearly a decade. "He was struggling mentally and having violent thoughts. He was contemplating if he should kill his wife, son or himself," a senior police officer said.

"He and his wife had been quarrelling about firing Meena as he did not want her to work there. However, she insisted that Meena continue as she had been very helpful and caring about the family."

Ex-PM Gujral's son loses ₹7.8cr to cyber scam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Naresh Gujral, the former Rajya Sabha MP who is the son of former Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, was duped of Rs 7.8 crore in a cyber fraud. The scammers impersonated him on a messaging platform and manipulated his employee's phone records to transfer the funds.

Police have, so far, frozen Rs 4 crore of the stolen amount. The fraud happened between June 12 and June 16, when cybercriminals allegedly created a fake account on a messaging platform using Gujral's display picture to pose as him. Investigators said the fraudsters then contacted an employee of Gujral's company, sending urgent messages instructing multiple RTGS transfers for what appeared to be legitimate business requirements. Believing that the instructions were authentic, the employee made four separate fund transfers, amounting to Rs 7.8 crore.

The fraud initially went unnoticed as the transactions appeared to be part of routine approvals. During the process, the bank flagged the unusually large transfers and sought clearance from the company's CFO. The CFO reportedly approved the transactions, assuming they had been authorised by Gujral.

The scam came to light on June 16 when a company official, sensing something unusual, reached out to Gujral's daughter to verify the payments. She checked with her father and found that he had not issued any such instructions. Following this, the family lodged a complaint. Investigators found that the gang first sent a malicious file to one of the employees, compromising his mobile phone. Once they gained access, the accused allegedly tampered with the contact details stored in the device. The fraudsters replaced Gujral's phone number in the employee's contact list with their own number while retaining Gujral's profile picture.

This made all incoming messages from the fake number appear as if they were from Gujral.

Cartridge, pebble & wood piece found in Begusarai rape survivor's body

Rajiv Kumar | TNN

Begusarai: A cartridge, a pebble and a piece of wood were recovered from the private parts of an alleged gangrape survivor during surgery at Begusarai Sadar Hospital on Thursday, bringing to light the shocking extent of injuries she suffered during a gangrape in the Chakia police station area on June 11. The disturbing discovery, made a week after the incident, has triggered outrage and intensified the police investigation.

According to the survivor and her family, the incident took place around midnight on June 11 under the Chakia police station area. The woman said she had stepped out of her house to use a toilet located outside when a group of armed men intercepted her.

"It was around midnight. The miscreants tied my hands and legs and even gagged me before taking me to a secluded place near the house. They then took turns raping me," she said. Family members alleged the accused also inflicted severe injuries on her with a sharp-edged weapon. They further claimed the attackers locked the house from the outside so that the woman's husband remained unaware of the assault while it was taking place.

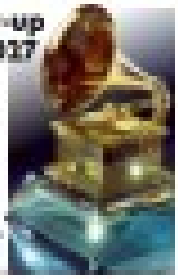
UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

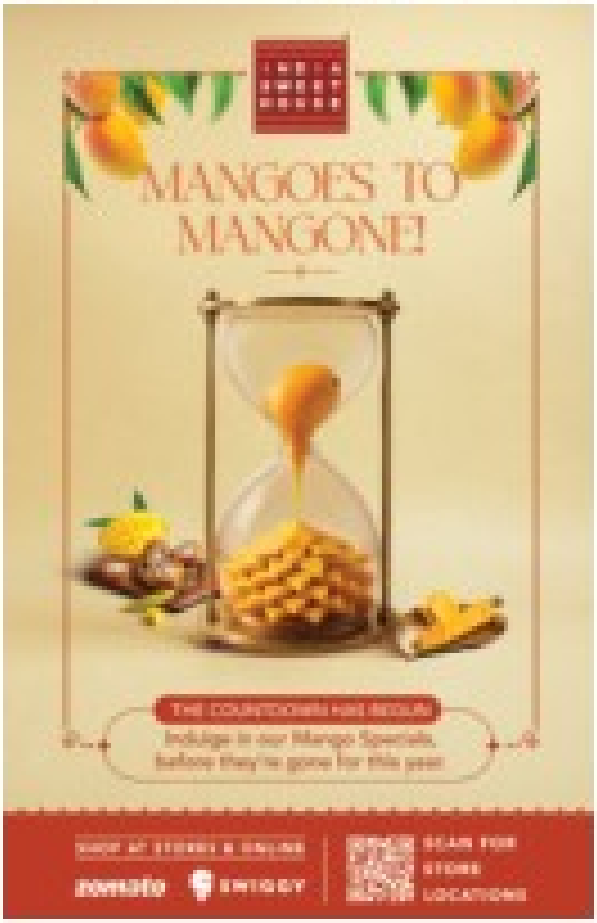
Baker's latest boutique is perched on the Indus slope

Spider-Man: Brand New Day to release in India before US debut

He was made for something bigger: Samantha Prabhu meets OM Vijay

Grammys get a glow-up with new rules for 2027

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INDIA DIGEST

Assam govt's bid to wipe out a mural of late Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg with the caption 'Comrades Never Die' triggered a wave of protests Thursday that choked traffic in Guwahati

New govt panel to decide floor wage

The Centre will soon set up an expert committee tasked with deciding the statutory national floor wage under the new labour codes. This marks a major shift in promoting labour welfare as states can no longer fix their minimum wages below this baseline.

Teen preparing for NEET retest dies

A 17-year-old student preparing for Sunday's NEET retest died after falling from the balcony of his sixth-floor apartment in Ahmedabad early Thursday, prompting a police investigation into whether stress linked to taking the medical entrance exam twice may have contributed to his death.

India gets its 1st desi hovercraft

Chowgule Shipyards in Goa delivered the country's first indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) to Indian Coast Guard Thursday, marking the first time a private Indian shipyard has built a hovercraft for the military from the ground up.

Woman dies while making 'reels'

A 22-year-old woman died allegedly after slipping while recording reels with a noose around her neck at her matrimonial house in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district Wednesday.

HC refuses to stay Ritabrata appointment as Bengal LoP

Cites Dispute In House, Lower Court Order

Srishti Lakhotia & Subrata Chattoraj | TNN

Ritabrata Banerjee is backed by dissident Trinamool MLAs

Kolkata: Calcutta high court declined to stay Thursday the appointment of rebel Trinamool MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as leader of the opposition in the Bengal assembly, handing his camp an early courtroom edge on opening day of the first session under BJP govt.

Hearing a petition by Trinamool Congress MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, Justice Krishna Rao refused interim relief and pointed out that a resolution submitted to the speaker by TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee nominating Sobhandeb as LoP remained "in dispute". The court also flagged an Alipore court order of June 15 that stayed Ritabrata's expulsion from TMC until June 30. The high court fixed July 28 for the next hearing.

Ritabrata, Sandipan Saha (who is now deputy LoP), and several other rebel MLAs backing BJP-led NDA have alleged their signatures were forged on a May 6 letter sent to the assembly speaker proposing Sobhandeb's name as LoP — a case making headlines as "signgate" and being investigated by Bengal police CID.

Sandipan called HC's refusal to intervene a "moral victory". "Ritabrata and I had initiated this fight. We brought the alleged signature irregularities in TMC's letter to the speaker's notice. The issue then went to court. Today's victory in HC confirms that law is on our side," he said.

HC's refusal to hit pause has left Ritabrata firmly in the saddle for now, but courtroom battles and political trench warfare inside TMC show few signs of easing. "Of 80 Trinamool MLAs, 65 are with us. Of the remaining 15, one is in jail. For the time being, 14 are on the other side. Let us wait and watch," Ritabrata said.

The ruling failed to cool tempers inside the assembly. Five Mamata Banerjee loyalists — Sobhandeb, Kunal Ghosh, Madan Mitra, Abdul Rahim Boxi and Asoke Deb — met CM Suvendu Adhikari and demanded separate seating arrangements, making clear they would not share benches with rebel MLAs.

"We will not sit with them. We also told CM Adhikari that we will not seek time allotments to speak from Ritabrata. He agreed and asked us to coordinate with parliamentary affairs minister Shankar Ghosh," Kunal said.

He said Sobhandeb appeared to receive symbolic backing during the governor's address. "CM was not only courteous to Sobhandeb, but we did notice that during the governor's address, the seat to the left of the speaker, traditionally reserved for LoP, was kept for Sobhandeb today," he said.

Mamata security not matter of choice: CM

Bengal CM **Suvendu Adhikari** Thursday told a TMC delegation that personal security officers assigned to ex-CM Mamata Banerjee would be decided by the security establishment and not on the basis of individual preference. The issue arose after two PSOs who had been attached to Banerjee for nearly two decades were withdrawn and replaced with three new personnel. Banerjee has not accepted the new PSOs. TMC netas have criticised the move, arguing that the changes were made without consultation. A five-member TMC delegation raised the matter with Adhikari. Sources said the CM maintained Banerjee's security cover remained unchanged and that she continued to enjoy Z+ protection with the same sanctioned strength. TNN

Can 6 UBT MPs be disqualified for skipping meet? Experts differ

Pradeep.Thakur
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New Delhi: Can refusal of six Lok Sabha members of Sena UBT to attend a meeting despite a 'whip' issued by party chief Uddhav Thackeray be a valid ground to disqualify them under the Tenth Schedule for non-obedience?

Uddhav's Sena UBT is planning to seek disqualification of six MPs — Sanjay Jadhav, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Omraje Nimbalkar, Sanjay Dina Patil, Sanjay Deshmukh and Nagesh Patil Ashtikar — who have broken away from the party by not turning up at the meeting. RS MP Sanjay Raut argued that the absence of the rebels amounted to disobeying the party's diktat, and that is grounds for their membership to be cancelled under the anti-defection law.

Legal experts, however, differ, with some of them holding that disqualification for defiance of the 'whip' applies only to the actions of law-makers inside the House.

The decision lies with Speaker of LS or assemblies, as the case may be, but it is subject to judicial scrutiny

Kapil Sibal, senior advocate and former law minister, said, "As far as the 'whip' is concerned, it is meant for the members' conduct in the House, to vote or not to vote on a party line, which can be subject to disqualification." However, if a member is not adhering to the party diktat on attending a party meeting, it amounts to "voluntarily giving up the party membership". If they have not given any reason for not attending, that can be a ground for disqualification, he added.

But is the 'whip' solely tied to the proceedings within the legislative House? "The text of the Tenth Schedule explicitly ties disqualification to a member who 'votes or abstains from voting in such House' contrary to any direction issued by the political party. The phrase 'in such House' is a strict geographical and functional limitation," said Ajay Garg, an advocate practising in Supreme Court.

"A party meeting, an internal organisational consultation, or a legislative party gathering is not 'the House'. Therefore, non-attendance or defiance at an internal meeting does not constitute a textual violation of the Tenth Schedule," Garg said.

Sibal, however, said "six members of Sena UBT not attending the party's parliamentary meeting is a collective decision, which suggests they are giving up their party membership and action can be taken on their conduct".

The decision of disqualification as per the Tenth Schedule lies with the Speaker of LS or assemblies, as the case may be, but his decision is subject to judicial scrutiny.

HDFC said to have put freeze on TMC a/c, Didi's faction denies it

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Former West Bengal sports minister Aroop Biswas — now being probed for last Dec's "Messigate" at Salt Lake stadium — wrote a letter six days ago to HDFC Bank, asking for the party's account to be frozen.

The letter, to the bank's Central Plaza branch, sought a "freeze" till "competent authorities" could decide who controlled the party. Aroop's letter — dated June 12 though it was received by the bank on June 16 — became public knowledge Thursday, the day he presented himself to cops for the probe in the "Messigate" affair.

Biswas's letter was written a week after the Trinamool national working committee on June 5 removed him as the party's treasurer and replaced him with ex-MP Subhasish Chakraborty. Party seniors said they had told HDFC Bank about the change.

TMC'S TROUBLES

- 58 MLAs have formed a separate bloc in assembly and picked their own LoP
- 20 Lok Sabha MPs have flipped to join a little known party called NCPI
- 3 Rajya Sabha MPs have resigned are likely to join BJP
- 4 former ministers and several councillors have been arrested on corruption charges

Biswas on Thursday refused to comment on the letter. He has skipped all party meetings at former CM Mamata Banerjee's residence after the May 4 poll defeat. His brother, Swarup Biswas, is now in police custody after being implicated in a host of corruption-and extortion-related cases.

HDFC Bank, too, did not officially react to the development. But a senior bank officer said the account had been put on "a debit freeze". A TMC functionary, however, strongly disputed this, claiming it was "a baseless rumour". The account, according to the audit report submitted by TMC to EC, holds Rs 535 crore.

Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the party was aware of "the news reports". "But we want to clarify just one thing: Biswas is not the party treasurer; the party treasurer is Chakraborty. We do not want to comment on speculations," Ghosh added.

CID knocks on doors of Mamata's niece

Kolkata: A CID team reached the home of Mamata Banerjee's niece Aditi Gayen on Harish Chatterjee Road Thursday in connection with an FIR against her cousin and Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee over his "DJ" remark during campaign speeches ahead of the 2026 assembly elections, report **Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee**.

The 10-member police team arrived around 2pm and spoke to Aditi, the daughter of Mamata's sister Rina Gayen, for an hour. A source said the investigators wanted to verify certain information received from Abhishek during his interrogation, and also to know how the TMC social media pages work. Abhishek was questioned by CID for over six hours Tuesday in connection with the case.

As Sena turns 60 today, rival camps set for verbal joust

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Eknath Shinde & Uddhav Thackeray

Mumbai: With 'Operation Tiger' now almost complete and the merger of rebel Sena UBT MPs with the deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena said to be a formality, the rival Shiv Senas will have a showdown at the party's foundation day events in Mumbai on Friday. June 19 this year marks the 60th anniversary of the party's founding.

While the Shinde-led Sena is said to turn its event into a show of strength, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena's celebration is expected to be muted.

Shinde and Uddhav will address their party cadre.

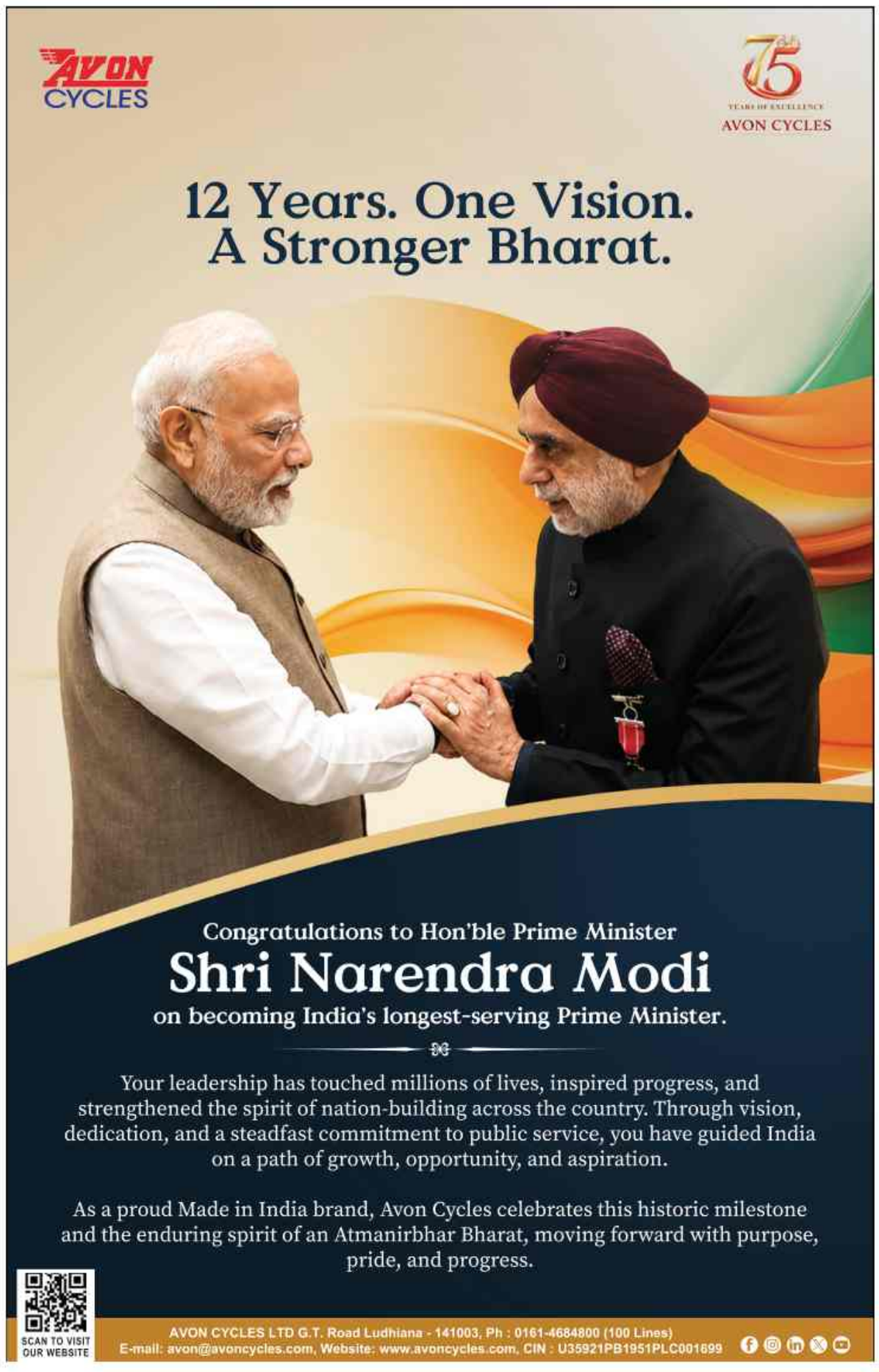
While Shinde is expected to once again claim the legacy of late Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, Sena UBT is expected to avoid any show of strength given the latest rebellion, but Uddhav will respond to the recent defections and is expected to target Shinde and BJP. He will also try to keep his flock together through an emotional appeal.

Shiv Sena minister Uday Samant indicated that the party will put up an aggressive front on Friday. Through a cryptic post on social media, Samant said many "formidable ones have been subdued," indicating that Operation Tiger had been successful and top Sena UBT netas would join the Shinde Sena.

Maha gives Y+ cover to 6 MPs, draws UBT fire

Mumbai: Maharashtra govt has provided Y+ security cover to six Shiv Sena UBT MPs amid speculation over their absence from recent party activities and growing political tensions within the party, reports **Ahmed Ali**.

The move triggered a sharp reaction from Sena UBT's Sanjay Raut, who accused govt of shielding "traitors" and questioned the need for enhanced security. Raut said the MPs would require protection even from the "wrath of Shiv Sainiks", remarking that not even Y+ security would be sufficient and that they might need the protection of the Air Force. The security cover has been extended to Lok Sabha MPs Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North East), Sanjay Deshmukh (Yavatmal-Washim), Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani), Bhausaheb Wakchaure (Shirdi), Nagesh Patil Ashtikar (Hingoli) and Omraje Nimbalkar (Dharashiv). According to the state intelligence department, the decision was taken based on possible threat perceptions.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Sena UBT a seat down in Mum civic body over fake cert

Richa.Pinto@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: As if a Shiv Sena claim that at least 25 corporators from the Shiv Sena (UBT) were ready to cross over was not bad enough, Uddhav Thackeray's party lost a corporator, Deepak Sawant, to disqualification on Thursday.

On a day that it became clear that six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs were going to switch their allegiance in the Lok Sabha, Shiv Sena politician Amey Ghole fuelled speculation about another round of defections, this time in the BMC, with a claim that 25 corporators were in direct contact with party leader Eknath Shinde.

"The UBT Shiv Sena faction is stifling its elected representatives. MPs and MLAs are not getting adequate opportunities to meet the party leadership. This is the main reason behind the discontent within the party," Ghole said while addressing the media.

He claimed that several legislators and MPs, unhappy with the leadership's lack of accessibility, had expressed a preference for Shinde's style of functioning.

Ghole said the Shiv Sena had launched a concerted drive to bring two-thirds of the Shiv Sena (UBT) corporators into its fold, with party MPs, MLAs and corporators assigned specific responsibilities to facilitate the exercise.

"UBT Shiv Sena faction is stifling its elected representatives. MPs and MLAs are not getting adequate opportunities to meet the party leadership. This is the main reason behind the discontent within the party"
AMEY GHOLE
Shiv Sena politician

Sawant lost his seat as his caste certificate was declared invalid by the district caste scrutiny committee. Mayor Ritu Tawde announced the disqualification in the house.

AIMIM corporator Shameer Patel from the OBC-reserved Ward No. 137 in Govandi's M-East Ward also had his caste certificate invalidated by the Ahilyanagar district caste scrutiny committee. An announcement of the cancellation of his membership had been expected but it was stayed after he secured interim relief from a court.

Sena UBT threatens to act against 'missing 6'

▸ Continued from P 1

The group also asked Om Birla to allot seats for them near the seven seats occupied by MPs from the Shinde Sena in Parliament. Sena UBT RS MP **Sanjay Raut** said Thursday that action will be taken against the MPs who hadn't turned up for the parliamentary party meeting as a 'whip' had been issued. LS MP Arvind Sawant said notices have been sent to the absent MPs.

In the rebel camp, five of the six rebel MPs, barring Omraje Nimbalkar who was in Pune, were moved to Jaipur Thursday to make sure they didn't show up for the UBT meeting. They were in New Delhi on Wednesday and flew out on Thursday morning. The six MPs are expected to join the Shinde-led Sena next week after they meet the LS Speaker and get their group recognised. Sena sources said Sena UBT MP Sanjay Jadhav is "group leader of the breakaway MPs".

Sawant said, "The absent MPs have betrayed the party. We are going to issue show-cause notices to them by the evening. If they do not respond within seven days, legal action will be taken. We will write to the Speaker as well as the MPs. Our party's directive (whip) was issued, and everyone received it. Despite that, they were not present here today."

Raut continued his tirade of abuses against the six MPs Thursday. He claimed NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar had called him and said they must go to the constituencies of rebel MPs and hold protests. Raut said Pawar himself was ready to hold protest meetings.

Raut described the action against the breakaway MPs as 'Operation Tudwa'. He claimed the dissident MPs were given "an additional Rs 10 crore" and then moved to a safe location in Rajasthan. He demanded that police security extended to the "traitors" be withdrawn.

He said, "We met yesterday, me, Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, and a photo of us was published. If those six people have met, show their faces... You are still members of the party. You won the election in the name of our party and on our party's election symbol... dishonesty will cost Eknath Shinde very dearly, and it will also cost the traitors."

B'luru remains largest AI talent hub, accounting for 19% of learners

▸ Continued from page 1

Women appear to be among the biggest beneficiaries of the shift. Besides reporting average salary gains of 145%, female professionals are expanding AI's footprint into HR, academia and marketing. Female quality assurance engineers recorded the steepest gains, with salaries rising by as much as 574%.

The geography of AI talent is also changing. Bengaluru remains India's largest AI talent hub, accounting for 19% of learners, followed by Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai. But nearly one in five learners now comes from Tier-II cities — Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Indore, Coimbatore and Nagpur — indicating AI opportunities are spreading beyond the country's established technology centres.

The report found that AI upskilling is delivering career gains across experience levels. Professionals reported an average salary increase of 147%, while early-career employees saw gains of as much as 155%.

Senior professionals, meanwhile, commanded the highest absolute salaries, with engineering leaders, vice-presidents and CXOs earning an average post-upskilling compensation of Rs 33 lakh annually.

Software engineering remains the single most common AI career outcome, accounting for 34.7% of professionals, followed by engineering leadership roles. Abhimanyu Saxena, co-founder of Scaler, said: "At a time when much of the conversation around AI focuses on job displacement, the findings tell a different story. For those who embrace artificial intelligence skills, the technology is proving to be a creator of opportunity, and not a destroyer of jobs."

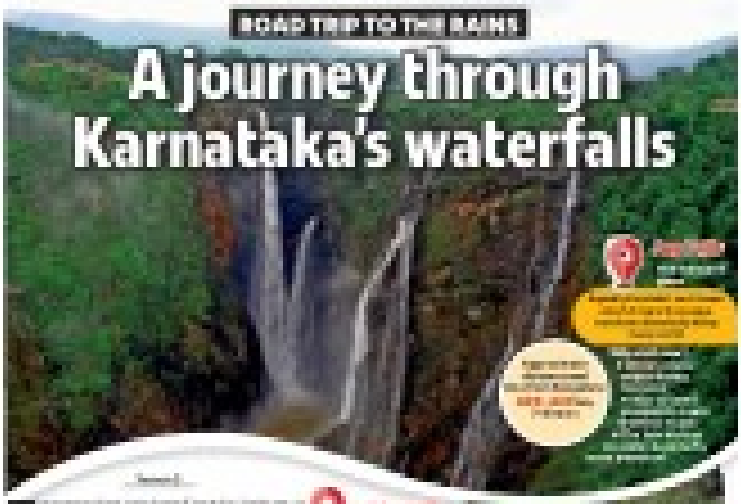
ED searches hosps across Kerala, suspects' homes

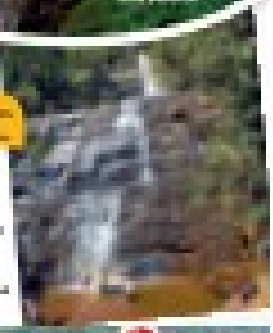
Kochi: Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted searches at several leading private hospitals and suspects' residences across the state as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged organ trafficking racket. The central agency's probe is based on FIRs registered by police in May this year. While a special investigation team of Kerala police is probing the alleged criminal conspiracy, forgery and possible human trafficking involved in the case, the ED is investigating suspected money laundering and the possible involvement of hospital officials. TNN

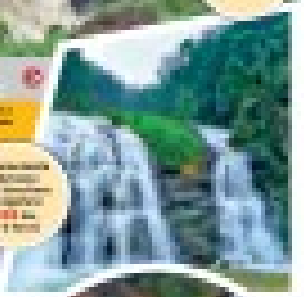
ORGAN TRAFFICKING CASE

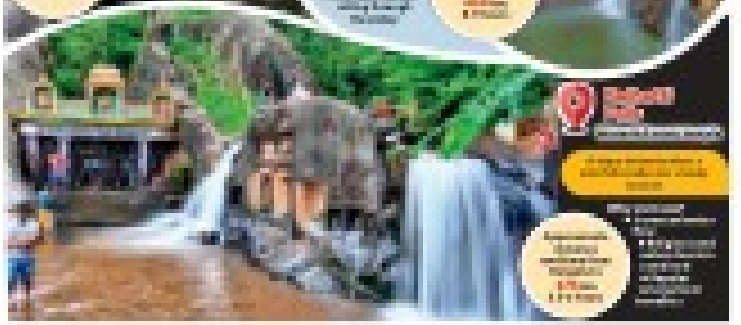
ROAD TRIP TO THE RAINS

A journey through Karnataka's waterfalls









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Significant progress already on India-US interim FTA: Govt

New Delhi: A day after PM Narendra Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump, govt said Thursday that significant progress had already been made on the India-US interim free trade bilateral agreement and the two countries are in the final stages of concluding that agreement. Briefing reporters about Modi's G7 engagements, foreign secretary **Vikram Misri** also said India expects the US-Iran interim peace agreement to lead to sustained peace and stability in the region.

Misri said both leaders once again gave instructions to officials to conclude the trade agreement at the earliest. "Next week, in fact, the United States Trade Representative, Mr Jameson Greer, will be visiting India to take forward these discussions and in the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister and President Donald Trump yesterday in Evian, this was a major subject of discussion," said the foreign secretary. Trump said Wednesday that the two countries were very close to reaching the agreement.

On the US-Iran peace deal, Misri said it was natural to have concerns about the agreement, which Israel is not party to, and that India would be ready to do whatever it can to address next steps. "Most of the protagonists who are involved in one way or the other, who have been affected by the conflict, we have been in very close touch with them throughout this conflict. We remain in very close touch with all of those partners and we will be ready to do whatever it is possible for us to do insofar as addressing the next steps are concerned," he said. TNN

For India, AI 'All Inclusive', must deliver for all: Modi

PM Addresses VivaTech 2026 Event In Paris

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PM Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome from members of the Indian community upon his arrival in Paris, France, Thursday

New Delhi: Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratised, said PM Narendra Modi on Thursday, underlining the significance of access to technology and innovation and calling AI 'All Inclusive'. Addressing VivaTech 2026 in Paris, Europe's biggest technology event, Modi said India believes that in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all.

"Let us take the example of AI. AI must improve lives, widen access, drive growth and also help us sustain a healthy planet. Our participation as the AI Country Partner at VivaTech 2026 reflects this very vision. For India, AI means 'All Inclusive'," he said.

Participating in the event alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, Modi highlighted India's vision for a human-centric AI and frontier technologies, and the growing expanse of India-France cooperation in emerging technologies. He noted that technology had enabled transformative changes in India, from digital payments, AI-enabled agricultural progress to cutting-edge space applications, according to an Indian readout.

Modi said that "2026 is a special year for India and Europe. At the beginning of the year, we concluded the historic India EU Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will expand our trade and investment. And, it will open up many pathways for the exchange of talent, technology and tourism".

Modi and Macron interacted with Indian start-ups and innovators displaying frontier technologies and practical solutions for industry, healthcare, sustainability, and mobility. According to the Indian govt, Modi's participation in VivaTech is expected to further deepen partnerships between Indian and French technology ecosystems.

"In 2021, when I addressed VivaTech, the world was facing the disruption of Covid-19. Today, the world is experiencing disruptions of other kinds. And I reiterate the message I shared then at VivaTech 2021. Where convention fails, innovation can help," said Modi.

A day earlier, speaking at a G7 session on AI, Modi had warned against the misuse of AI, saying it could expose children to the risks of misinformation, deepfakes and exploitation. He said AI can educate children in their languages and boost their creativity.

'India has seen transformative growth in 12yrs'

Paris: PM Narendra Modi on Thursday said India has witnessed transformative growth across sectors in the last 12 years, and beyond economic growth, the country's journey is about empowering people and transforming lives.

Addressing the Indian diaspora here, the PM said 25 crore people have been brought out of poverty.

"Over the past 12 years, India's exports have increased 35-fold. The country's mobile manufacturing units have experienced a 100-fold growth, making India the world's second-largest mobile manufacturer. \India now stands as the fastest-growing major economy," he said.

He said serving the country as an elected PM for 12 consecutive years had been a great privilege. "It is the power of India's democracy that has brought a tea seller to this position. The last 12 years have been a testament to the incredible potential of 1.4 billion Indians. In this period, GDP has doubled," he said. ANI

Developing BrahMos variants with India: Russia

New Delhi: India and Russia are "jointly developing small and hypersonic variants of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile that will further enhance the multi-domain strike capabilities of the Indian armed forces", Russian ambassador to India Denis Alipov has said. He said this while India and Russia marked 25 years since the first test-launch of the jointly developed BrahMos was conducted on June 12, 2001, from the Chandipur test range in Odisha. His statement was quoted as saying by Russian state-funded media RT India.

According to a video on RT India's X account, "India and Russia are working on a 800-km strike version of a BrahMos, a submarine-launched variant of BrahMoS under the P75I programme; a miniaturised lighter version of BrahMoS for integration with aircraft and a hypersonic BrahMos missile."

With the existing BrahMos weighing nearly 3 tonnes and 2.8 Mach speed, the BrahMos Aerospace, an Indo-Russia joint venture, in collaboration with DRDO is already working on Project BrahMos-NG (Next-Generation), which is a smaller, lighter and stealthier variant of the cruise missile. TNN

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China foreign min to visit India next week

New Delhi: Ahead of the Brics summit that India will host in Sept, Chinese foreign minister **Wang Yi** will visit India next week, June 22-23, for a meeting of the national security advisers of the grouping. Wang had last month skipped the Brics foreign ministers' meeting because the dates clashed with US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing for the US-China summit.

India holds Brics rotational presidency this year, and will hand it over to China for 2027.

While an official confirmation is still awaited from Beijing, India expects President Xi Jinping to attend the summit in September. PM Narendra Modi had travelled to China last year for the SCO summit. TNN

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Commercial Plot: TP Scheme 16 @ Pal, Surat. Area 4626 Sq Mts. (Physical Possession)	Rs. 45.82 Cr

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This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the immovable property mentioned and described the schedule below from its owners **(i) Smt. K. Anuradha,** wife of Late K. Vijaya Kumar, and **(ii) Sri. K. Premaraj,** son of Late K. Vijaya Kumar (hereafter collectively referred to as "Owners"). The Owners represent that the Schedule Property is free from any encumbrance, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and they have not entered any sort of Agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this Notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 53/9 (earlier part of Survey No. 53/8, much earlier part of Survey No. 53/2) measuring 1 acre 2 ½ guntas, situated at Kachamaranahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Survey No. 63;
West by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/2;
North by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/8; and
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/4.

Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point, No.7/49,
Edward Road, Bengaluru-560001
Ph.: 080 22863885 / 49763233
email: vinay@vinaykademane.in

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 18-06-2026

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Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Sushri Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India

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No interim stay by SC on CBSE's 3-language policy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to pass any interim order on a plea challenging the implementation of a CBSE policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from the 2026-27 academic session.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana tagged the plea filed by NGO Friends of People for Active Democracy with similar pleas pending on the issue. "This matter was argued at length. There is no question of interim protection," the bench said as it ordered the tagging of the matter.

During the brief hearing, the counsel appearing for the NGO submitted that they are not challenging the three-language policy per se but just the implementation part of it. CJI Kant then questioned the NGO's name, Friends Of People For Active Democracy, and asked in a lighter vein if that kind of nomenclature was meant to create fear in the mind of the court or the people.

To this, the counsel replied, "No, my lord. That's the name of the trust. It's an old trust set up in 2013." PTI

TVK govt to continue two-language policy

Chennai: Invoking former chief minister C N Annadurai's principle that only Tamil and English should be taught in the state, TVK govt led by C Joseph Vijay on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to Tamil Nadu's two-language policy. This was part of Governor R V Arlekar's address in the state assembly on Thursday.

The govt also strongly opposed the National Education Policy (NEP). TNN

Sound waves may hold key to greener computing

Scientists Develop Method To Steer Info In Magnetic Materials

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

One promising field is spintronics, which uses a property of electrons to carry info instead of relying solely on electric charge. This can potentially make devices more energy-efficient

Bengaluru: As artificial intelligence, cloud services and data centres consume growing amounts of electricity, scientists are searching for ways to make computing faster while using less power. Researchers in Punjab now believe sound waves could offer part of the solution.

A team of Indian scientists has developed a new theoretical method that uses sound waves to control the movement of information inside magnetic materials.

The approach could help reduce energy consumption in future computing technologies and may also find applications in quantum computing and advanced communication systems. Modern electronic devices work by moving electric charges through circuits. While effective, this process inevitably produces heat and wastes energy. As devices become smaller and more powerful, managing this energy loss is becoming increasingly challenging.

Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology, an autonomous institute of the department of science and technology (DST) have therefore been exploring alternatives.

"The researchers focused on magnons, tiny waves of magnetic disturbances that travel through magnetic materials. Unlike electrons, magnons can transport information while losing far less energy. The study, led by PhD scholar Shivam Sharma and supervised by Prof Abir De Sarkar, examined what happens when surface acoustic waves, essentially sound waves travelling along a material's surface, interact with magnons," DST said.

Using a specially developed analytical model, the team studied an ultra-thin magnetic material placed on a piezoelectric substrate, a material that generates electricity when pressure is applied to it. They found that as sound waves move through the material, they create minute distortions.

These distortions, DST said, act as effective forces that influence the movement of magnons, creating a new way to generate and control spin currents without relying on conventional electrical methods.

SUV falls into gorge in Chamba; 7 dead

Kullu: Seven people, including six from a family, were killed after their SUV plunged 500 metres into a gorge in Churah sub-division of Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district in the early hours of Thursday.

The group was returning from a ceremony in Kakdotha village when the vehicle lost control and rolled down the steep mountainside near Chhatrund around 2am.

Police identified the victims as Chuni Lal (65), Devi Lal (62), Moti Ram (50), Babli Devi (45), Kunta Devi (53), Anita Kumari (20), and driver Manohar Lal (34). Police suspect speed, or mechanical failure as the cause of the accident. TNN

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/T&P/SE-1/2026-27/2774-86 Dated: 18.06.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following work against following enquiry numbers on **Total Turnkey basis.**

Enquiry No. & Name of the work
KPTCL/2026-27/UC/WORK_INDENT3890
Providing **alternate source** to 66/11kV **Telecom Layout sub-station from 66/11kV Chandra Layout** sub-station by running **66kV** 1000sqmm **SC U.G. Cable** for a route length of **2.86 kms** & Construction of 02 no's. of 66kV Terminal bay in Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.06.2026 @ 15:00hrs**. Last date & time for receipt of Bids and **any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal**. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer, (Electy).
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A. R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

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ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.400.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

A)ಪ್ರೀಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್:25–06–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11–30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, B)ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:01–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5–30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, C) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:04–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4–00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, D) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, E) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra invites e-tenders for 02 (two) nos. Works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl. No.; E-tender Notice No.; Description of works & Tender value** respectively : **(1); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-45-26, Dtd. 16.06.2026;** 1) Civil engineering work in connection with the work of interlocking of 4 nos. of level crossing gates (BR-67, BR-101, BR-10 & BR-58) in the section of SSE/Sig/BQA in Adra division.1) Civil engineering work in connection with the work of interlocking of 2 nos. of level crossing gates (RC-5 & DK-2) in the section of SSE/Sig/ADA in Adra division; ₹ 2,71,30,623.35; **(2); E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-46-26, Dtd. 15.06.2026;** Provision of additional full length platform at Jhantipahari station; ₹ 5,46,13,106.06; **The closing date and time of e-tenders is on** : 16.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1) & 13.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (for Sl. No. 2); Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in**
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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR MANAGEMENT OF SIDHARTHA CONVENTION CENTRE (KALYANA MANTAPA)

A management contractor is needed to manage a well-constructed and equipped Sidhartha Convention Centre (Sidhartha Kalyana Mantapa) located in CA Site No.17, 26th Main, 25th "A" Cross, HSR Layout, 2nd Sector, Bengaluru – 560102 on monthly lease rent basis. Interested persons / firms / companies may collect the detailed tender papers from the Honorary Secretary of Sidhartha Association, by contacting her by phone 9448485752 or by mail jayamani.ramanujam@gmail.com and filled in tenders may be submitted on or before 5 pm on Sunday, the 29th June 2026.

TENDERS

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Procurement Department, 1st Floor, Union Bank Bhavan, 239 Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021

RFP FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDINGS IN MUMBAI

Union Bank of India invites offers in two bid system for appointment of contractor for housekeeping services at central office building and other administrative office buildings in Mumbai through **GeM portal (GeM Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7672535 Dated 16.06.2026).** Further details are available on Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.bank.in. Last Date for receipt of offers in prescribed form is 09.07.2026 up-to 07.00 PM.** The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Assistant General Manager

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TENDERS

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Procurement Department, 1st Floor, Union Bank Bhavan, 239 Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021

TENDER NOTICE

Union Bank of India invites vendors for following items; **GeM Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7653461 Dated 16.06.2026; Item/Job Description - RFP for supply, installation and maintenance of 1500 CRMs under capex model; Date and time of tender publication - 16.06.2026,11:00 hours; Pre-bid Meeting- 29.06.2026,11:00 hours; Bid End Date / Time - 15.07.2026,16:00 hours;** For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place **(GeM) portal https://gem.gov.in** for participation in the tender.

UNION BANK OF INDIA
Procurement Department, 1st Floor, Union Bank Bhavan, 239 Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021

TENDER NOTICE

Union Bank of India invites e-tenders from vendors for following items. **GeM Bid No - GEM/2026/B/7632608 Dated 12.06.2026; Item / Job Description – RFP for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of, AIOs PC and Laptop Rate Contract; Date of tender publication - 12.06.2026; Pre-bid Meeting: 24.06.2026 11:00 hours; Bid End Date / Time - 09.07.2026 16:00 hours; For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal https://gem.gov.in for participation in the tender.**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUKUMAR JAGANNATHAN, aged about 75 years, S/o Jagannathan Govindaswamy, Residing at Flat No.102, Ramachandra Residency, No.18, 4th Cross, MD Block, Malleshwaram, Bangalore– 560003, do hereby declare, that my name appears as J SUKUMAR MUDALIAR in some of my records & appears as SUKUMAR JAGANNATHAN in my Aadhar Card no 7296 3042 8975 & PAN Card No.ADEPM2223L & in my Bank Accounts & GST Certificate. I Further Declare that the names J SUKUMAR MUDALIAR & SUKUMAR JAGANNATHAN belongs to one & the same person. Henceforth I shall be Known as SUKUMAR JAGANNATHAN for all purposes vide Affidavit Dated 15th Jun 2026 sworn before the notary "Mr. Aravind Patil G.G" at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Chaya Mahabaleshwar Bhatgopi, residing at Flat No. 019, DB Lakven Gardenia, Lemon leaf 1st Main, Kodigehalli Main Road, Kadugodi, Bangalore-67, have changed my name to Chaya Mahabaleshwar Bhat for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 17-06-2026 sworn before Notary Anand Kumar, Bangalore. I declare that Chaya Mahabaleshwar Bhatgopi and Chaya Mahabaleshwar Bhat belong to one and the same person.

I, ADITHI NAYAK, W/O GURUPRASAD RAMESH, residing at Gagan Jyothi Apartment, #C11, 2nd cross, Manjunatha Layout, Behind Mamatha School, R.T Nagar, Bangalore-560032, have changed my name to ADITHI GURUPRASAD BHAT vide affidavit dated [13.06.2026] sworn before notary Sivakumara.M.N, for all purposes.

I, David Veda Prasad S/o Samuel V, R/O No 102 1st floor, Charixiva Moonstone Apartment Gopal Reddy layout dodda Banaswadi Bangalore - 43. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from David Veda Prasad to David Veda Prasad S and henceforth I shall be known as David Veda Prasad S in all purpose, vide affidavit no IN-KA86292818969188Y sworn before the Notary Public YR CHANDRASEKAR at Bangalore on 11TH JUNE 2026. David Veda Prasad S and David Veda Prasad both are same and one identical person.

I Sindhu D/O, S Suresh R/o No 140,vaishnavi Residency, 7th Cross, Poornapragna Layout, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Sindhu Suresh.

I, Nandan Sanjiv Agarwal, residing at #1460, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560010, have changed my name to Nandan Agarwal vide affidavit Dt: 20/05/2026, sworn before notary V. Srinivasa Reddy, Bangalore.

I, Manoj Srinivas, holder of Indian Passport No. B9739633, residing at 2.8 Skidby House, Taylor Court, Salmon Grove, Hull HU6 7SW, UK, have changed my name to Arvin Deiyo and shall hereafter be known as Arvin Deiyo for all purposes.

I Ashwini Ningappa Veershetty Mother of Aanya. R/o Flat No. A 0702, Serene A Block, Brigade Cornerstone Utopia, Varthur, Bengaluru - 560087 have changed my daughter name to Aanya Dhaulakhandi, vide affidavit dtd 16-06-2026 sworn before notary Yankoba

I Tejashwini Basavraj Musandi W/O Santosh Lakshmeshwar R/O of No. F403 , Gopalan Sanskriti Mylasandra Bangalore 560059 shall henceforth be known as Tejashwini Musandi via affidavit no IN-KA89095805051728Y dated on 13/06/2026.

I, BHAVANI RAGHAVENDRA DESAI, W/o Raghavendra K Desai, R/at B1301, Century Indus Apartment, Near Jnanakshi School, Pattana gere, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-98, have changed my name to BHAVANI K, vide affidavit dt: 27.05.2026 before notary N Sandhya, Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: IIT Bombay M.Tech(CSE) 2017 Degree Certificate. Name: Suhit Sinha. Lost in Bangalore. If found, please deposit at the nearest police station.

Institute of Leadership Development (ILD)
6/2 Jamdoli, Jaipur, Near Keshav Vidhyapeeth Road-Jaipur-Rajasthan-302031

Expression of Interest (EOI) DATE: 19th June 2026

EOI to be submitted as described below:

Sr. No.	Purpose	Evaluation Criteria	Last Date of Submission of EOI
1.	**EOI from eligible organizations to be empanelled/engaged as an Advance Knowledge Partner to promote, manage and execute integrated higher education and skill development initiatives. For more details please visit website www.ildindia.org**	**Final evaluation will be done on the basis of presentation which will held at the ILD campus Jaipur.**	**11 July 2026 By 1600 Hrs.**

Issued By:-
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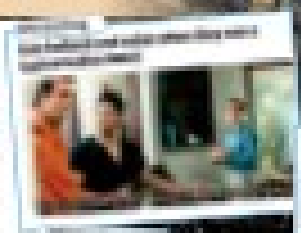
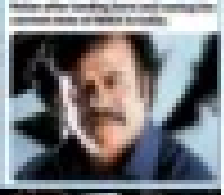
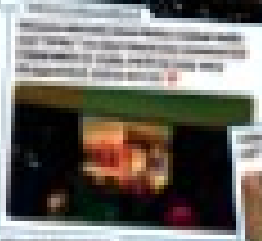
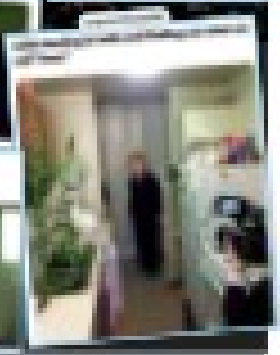
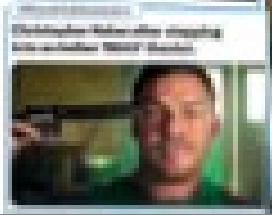
Where are the premium screens, ask moviegoers











"Special and formula cuts limit a major portion of a film's earnings"

Painting the World Cup pitch pink

'Bright colours give players confidence'

Not everyone is thinking pink

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When you read a book, you create the experience yourself: Andrea Jeremiah

'I dream of opening a coffee shop-bookshop'

'I hope I live to see a woman CM'

Pro-Pak message on vessel triggers alert at Cochin Shipyard, probe on

Kochi: A pro-Pakistan message was found scrawled inside a ship docked at Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) for maintenance, triggering a security alert and an internal investigation to identify the accused. CSL also lodged a formal complaint with Ernakulam South police Thursday, a source said. Police, though yet to register a case, have launched a preliminary inquiry into the matter.

Security personnel discovered the words 'I Love Pakistan' scratched on an internal wall of the vessel over a week ago. Given the strategic importance of the shipyard, which handles major defence contracts, including construction and maintenance of Navy vessels, the incident is being treated with utmost seriousness, sources added. TNN

Telegram open to mass misuse, says SG, justifies restrictions

▶ Continued from P 1

Solicitor General **Tushar Mehta** highlighted that the architecture of Telegram has all the potential for being misused. He pointed out that a single Telegram account can create up to 40 bots. "I will just give an example. In Telegram, one account user can create 40 bots. While in case of WhatsApp, it's one bot per user. They have multiplicity-encouraging architecture and then the bots can further multiply… these can disseminate information via channels," he said. Justifying the decision, SG said other similar platforms don't have such features open to mass misuse. "This platform operates through the cloud. Even if they block it and someone does mischief, law enforcement agencies cannot reach actual user… since removal of an account deletes all data, leaving no evidence," SG said, indicating that Telegram is frequently used for terrorist activities and that law enforcement agencies face challenges due to this architectural design in various jurisdictions.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 2nd June 2026

S.O. 2800(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20(A) of the Railway Act-1989 (24 of 1989) (here in after referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru. For ROB / RUB's in lieu of Level Crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20(D) of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 at (Benachigere Gate) for construction of ROB and Service Road in Benachigere and N.Mattighatta Villages in the state of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU,
TALUK: GUBBI,
HOBLI: NITTURU,
VILLAGE: N.MATTIGHATTA

Sl. No.	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas)				Classification of land	Remark
			Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)		
1	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/O Basappa	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	Dry	-
Total			0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	-	-

DISTRICT:TUMAKURU,
TALUK: GUBBI,
HOBLI: NITTURU,
VILLAGE: BENACHAGERE

Sl. No.	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas)				Classification of land	Remark
			Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)		
1	54	B.S. Linganna S/O Shivanna S.	0-14 1/2	-	0-02	0-12 1/2	Dry	-
2	121	Rangaswamaiah S/O Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/O Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/O Chinnaiah (Joint), Ranganarasamma W/O Gangaiah, Kaveri Niravari Nigamakke Bhuswadina, Chikkamma W/O Late Doddaiah, Narasimhaiah S/O Late Kenchaiah, Chikkanna S/O Late Kenchaiah, Bhadraiah S/O Late Kenchaiah (Joint) Lokamma W/O Late Kalaiah	0-03	-	0-00 1/2	0-02 1/2	Dry	-
3	40	Government Gomala Rangaswamaiah S/O Gangaiah Muniyamma W/O Rangaswamaiah (Joint) Bhardrakalamma W/O Chikkanna, Bhagyamma W/O Late Veerabhadraiah Ravish B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah Eranna B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah, (Joint) Chikkanna S/O Kenchaiah, Hanumanthaiah S/O Papanna, S Gangaiah S/O Siddaramaiah, Bhagyamma W/O Late Veerabhadraiah, Ravish B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah , Eranna B S/O Late Veerabhadraiah, (Joint) Kalaiah S/O Narasaiah, Boja S/O Renukaiah, Rangaswamaiah S/O Narasaiah, Rangaswamaiah S/O Chinnaiah, Kalamma W/O Channabasappa, Narasaiah S/O Rangaiah, Chikkanna Wife Deviramma, Veerabhadraiah S/O Kenchaiah Renukamma W/O Kempaiah (Joint), Gowramma W/O Late Nanjundaiah, B.N. Shivakumar S/O Late Nanjundappa, Sudha W/O B.N.Shivakumar Nijagunaiah S/O Late Nanjundaiah (Joint), Narasimhaiah S/O Mudalagiraiah, Doddaiah S/O Mudalagiraiah (Joint), Sujith S/O Nagaraju	0-08 3/4	-	0-01	0-07 3/4	Grant	As per Akarbhand Sy.No. 40 named as Sarkari Gomala, Khatadaras names has been mentioned as per present RTC.
4	41	Lakshmidevamma W/O Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/O Late Seebaiah Doddaiah S/O Late Seebaiah (Joint)	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry	-
5	42	Revaiah S/O Narasaiah	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry	-
6	43	Government	0-02	-	-	0-02	Government	-
Total			0-30 3/4	-	0-03 1/2	0-27 1/4	-	-

ABSTRACT

VILLAGE	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND	ACQUIRED EXTENT (In ACRES-GUNTAS)			
		TOTAL (A-G)	A KHARAB (A-G)	B KHARAB (A-G)	BALANCE (A-G)
N.MATTIGHATTA	DRY	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2
BENACHAGERE	GRANT	0-08 3/4	-	0-01	0-07 3/4
	GOVERNMENT	0-02	-	-	0-02
	DRY	0-20	-	0-02 1/2	0-17 1/2
TOTAL	-	0-33 1/4	-	0-03 1/2	0-29 3/4

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

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Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
PUB/227/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**

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ADVT No.: 151/Admin/InvestUP/2026-27 Dated: 18.06.2026

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Applications are invited, in the prescribed format, from eligible and experienced candidates only on deputation basis for the following posts in the Industrial Development Authorities under the administrative control of the Department of Industrial Development, namely, New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA), Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA), Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) and Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA). All applications shall be accepted only through the Invest UP website www.invest.up.gov.in/career/ .

S.N.	Name of Post	Pay Scale Details
1	Senior Manager (Civil)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 6600/
2	Senior Manager (Architecture/Planning)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 6600/
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4	Deputy General Manager (Administration/General)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 7600/
5	Assistant General Manager (Administration/General)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 6600/
6	Manager (Civil)	15600-39100 Grade Pay5400/
7	Manager (Electrical/Mechanical)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 5400/
8	Manager (Architecture/Planning)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 5400/
9	Manager (Administration/General)	15600-39100 Grade Pay 5400/
10	Assistant Manager (Civil)	9300-34800 Grade Pay 4200/
11	Assistant Manager (Electrical/Mechanical)	9300-34800 Grade Pay 4200/
12	Assistant Manager (Architecture/Planning)	9300-34800 Grade Pay 4200/
13	Assistant Manager (Administration/General)	9300-34800 Grade Pay 4200/

- For details of educational/technical qualification, age, eligibility, experience, application format etc. kindly visit Invest UP website https://invest.up.gov.in/career/
- Only online applications shall be accepted for the above posts
- Last date for the submission of online applications is **11.07.2026**

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Dated : 18.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through KPPP portal from the eligible contractors.

Last date of submission of bid is Date: 03.07.2026

Sl. No	Name of work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Yatri Niwas (Phase-I) (G+1) Floors at Dargah Hazat Sheikh UL Akbar Anwar Masoom Shah Walialla, Mudugoppa Village, Nagar Hobli, Hosnagar Taluk, Shivamogga District (Fixed Price No Variation). **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT76/CALL-2**	117.81	2.00
2	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School at 4 Locations (Extension of School Building at Each Locations in G+3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Different Taluks of Haveri District- Package 9 (1) Shirgod Village, Hanagal Taluk, 2) Kaginele Village, Byadagi Taluk, 3) Hangal Village, Hanagal Taluk, 4) Hosaritti Village, Haveri Taluk) (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT78/CALL-2**	1752.64	26.29
3	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G+3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Devarahatti, Davanagere Taluk, Davanagere District (New Work) - Package - 3B (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT80/CALL-2**	502.16	7.53
4	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Maghanahalli, Davanagere Taluk, Davanagere District (New Work) - Package - 3A (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT81/CALL-2**	502.05	7.53
5	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School at 2 Locations (School Building at each locations in G+2 floors and other infrastructure works) for Minority Department in different Taluks of Vijayanagar District (1) Harapanahalli Taluk, 2) Kudligi Taluk)- Package – 10 (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT84/CALL-2**	1004.38	15.07
6	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School at 2 Locations (Extension of School Building at Each Locations in G+3 Floors & Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Different Taluks of Haveri District (Akki Aluru, Karadagi) Package - 7A (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT85/CALL-2**	876.32	13.14
7	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School at 3 Locations (Extension of School Building at Each Locations in G+3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Different Taluks of Haveri District. Package - 7B (Darga Hangal Village, Hanagal Taluk, Suraleshwar Road Hangal Village, Hangal Taluk, Kottigeri Bankapura Village, Shiggaon Taluk) (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT86/CALL-2**	1226.91	18.40
8	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G+3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Kanchinegaluru Village, Hangal Taluk of Haveri District-Package - 7C (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT87/CALL-2**	423.56	6.35
9	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Beedi Layout, Davanegere Taluk Davanegere District (Extension Work) - Package - 6C (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT92/CALL-2**	305.13	4.57
10	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at K R Market, Davanagere Town, Davanagere Taluk, Davanagere District (Extension Work) - Package - 6A (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT93/CALL-2**	396.21	5.94
11	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Mundgod Town, Mundgod Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Extension Work) - Package – 16 (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT94/CALL-2**	400.08	6.00
12	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building In G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Hulguru Village, Shiggaon Taluk of Haveri District - Package - 7E (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT95/CALL-2**	365.11	5.48
13	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 1 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Nagendramatti Place, Haveri Taluk of Haveri District Package - 7H (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT100/CALL-2**	262.86	3.94
14	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Darga Mohalla, Kolar District (Extension Work) Package - 10B (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT101/CALL-2**	283.27	4.24
15	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Rehmathnagar, Kolar District (Extension Work) - Package – 9 (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT102/CALL-2**	431.57	6.47
16	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Anandnagar, Dharwad District (Extension Work) - Package - 6B (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT104/CALL-2**	384.49	5.76

Further information visit : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in.

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[Ref. Advt. F.No./AIIMS/MG/Admin/Recruitment/03/2026/Non Faculty/ Deputation/02 dtd. 16.06.2026]

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AIIMS Mangalagiri invites Online applications from eligible candidates for 09 **Group A & B posts** (Medical Superintendent-01, Superintending Engineer-01, Registrar-01, Assistant Controller of Examinations - 01, Administrative Officer – 01, Assistant Administrative Officer -01, Assistant Accounts Officer -02, Librarian Grade-I – 01) **on Deputation Basis.** The closing date of applications will be 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News. For more details, please visit website **www.aiimsmangalagiri.edu.in**.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Mangalagiri

GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & WILDLIFE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
WEST FOREST DIVISION, MANDIR LANE, NEW DELHI-60
E-Mail: - dcfwest.gnctd@gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E - TENDER

An e – tender has been invited for **"RFP for Engagement of Event Partner in connection with Celebration of Van Mahotsav on July 5th, 2026 under West Forest Division, Department of Forest and Wildlife, GNCTD, Mandir Lane, New Delhi - 110060 (Tender Id 2026_DYCFW_293142_1)"** In case the tenderer/Bidder has any doubt about the meaning of anything contained in the tender document, he shall seek clarification from the office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests, West Forest Division, Deptt. of Forest & Wildlife, GNCT of Delhi, Mandir Lane, Delhi-110060.

The tentative cost of the tendered work is estimated as be is **Rs. 1,59,11,246/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty-Nine Lakhs Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Six Only).** The details of submission of bid are as follows:

Date of release of RFP through e-procurement portal of Delhi Govt	10.06.2026 at 04:00 PM
Start date/ time for downloading of tender	10.06.2026 at 04:00 PM
Date of Pre-bid meeting	12.06.2026 at 12:00 PM
Start date/ time for submission/uploading of the RFP documents	13.06.2026 at 10:00 AM
Last date/time for submission/ uploading the RFP documents	18.06.2026 at 10:00 AM
Date and time of opening of Technical Bid	18.06.2026 at 11:00 AM
Date and time of opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated

The last date of submission of bids is **18.06.2026** up to **10:00 AM**. For any further query, contact the O/o Dy. Conservator of Forests, West Forest Division at Mandir Lane, Delhi – 110060.

Website link - https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/

-S/d-
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WEST FOREST DIVISION

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0114/26-27.

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- **DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT OF FEE: 18.06.2026 TO 08.07.2026**

For any query, please write to us through the link **"CONTACT US"** which is available on Bank's official website mentioned above.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 18.06.2026 **General Manager (RP & PM)**

SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE PORT, KOLKATA

(A Statutory Body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Regd. Office: 15, Strand Rd, Fairley Place, B.B.D. Bagh, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700001

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata is looking for eligible Indian Nationals for engagement against the following position through DIRECT RECRUITMENT:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of post	Scale of Pay
1	Deputy Chief Accounts Officer	01	Rs.60,000 - 1,80,000/-

Essential Eligibility Criteria:
- Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India or of Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India.
- Must have 09 years' experience in executive cadre in the field of Finance, Accounting in an Industrial/ Commercial/ Government Undertaking.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of post	Scale of Pay
2	Senior Assistant Secretary (Official Language)	01	Rs.50,000 - 1,60,000/- (pre-revised Rs.9,100 - 10,750/-)

Essential Eligibility Criteria:
- Must be an M.A. in Hindi with English as a subject at the degree level or B.A. (Honours) in English with a degree or a Post Graduate in Hindi of a recognised University.
- Must have 05 years' experience in terminological works in Hindi and translation work from English to Hindi and vice versa or 05 years' experience in teaching/ research, writing or journalism in Hindi.

For more details, last date of application and to apply as per prescribed proforma (in hard copies only), Visit "Job Openings" of SMPK website at www.smp.smportkolkata.in.

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Walk-in interview

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Sl	Position	No of Vacancy	Advt Ref	Date of Walk-in Interview & Location
1.	Chief General Manager (Gr.IX) Finance	1	KP/S/11/2026 Dt.19.06.2026	29.06.2026 (Monday, 8.30 a.m.) BEML Limited BEML Soudha S.R.Nagar Bangalore
2.	General Manager (Gr.VIII) Finance	1		
3.	Deputy General Manager (Gr.VII) Company Secretary	1		

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WORLD CONTINENCE WEEK

15TH – 21ST JUNE '26

Content provided by MSN
Research for Better Medicines

Dr. Hasmukha Raja

The Quiet Weight of a Small Leak

A small urinary leak may seem minor to many women, yet its emotional and psychological impact can be surprisingly large. For many individuals, the fear of leakage extends far beyond the physical act of urination. It can influence how a person dresses, where she goes, how she moves, and even how she feels about herself in social or intimate settings. Women may begin to avoid exercise, travel, long meetings, or even simple pleasures like laughing or sneezing in public because they are afraid of losing control. Over time, this constant vigilance can quietly erode confidence and quality of life.

What makes urinary leakage particularly challenging is that it often develops gradually. Many women initially dismiss it as a normal part of aging, childbirth, or menopause. They may adjust their routines, use pads discreetly, or simply endure the discomfort without seeking help. Unfortunately, this silence can delay diagnosis and treatment, allowing the problem to become more entrenched than it needs to be. Early evaluation can often lead to simple, effective solutions that may not require surgery or long-term medication.

Another important aspect is the role of lifestyle factors in urinary health. Chronic constipation, repeated urinary infections, obesity, and even persistent coughing can place additional pressure on the pelvic floor muscles that support the bladder. Addressing these underlying contributors can be just as important as treating the leakage itself. A holistic approach that considers diet, hydration, bowel habits, and overall health can make a significant difference in long-term outcomes.

Equally important is the emotional support women receive when they do seek help. Many report feeling relieved simply to be heard and reassured that they are not alone. Clinicians who approach these conversations with empathy and without judgment can help patients feel safe discussing symptoms they may have carried in silence for years. Creating this kind of environment is essential for encouraging timely care.

Ultimately, urinary leakage is not a sign of weakness or failure. It is a medical condition with a wide range of effective treatments, from pelvic floor exercises and lifestyle modifications to minimally invasive procedures. The first step is recognizing that help is available and that relief is possible. Encouraging women to speak openly about their symptoms can transform not only their physical health but also their confidence and overall well-being.

The Subtle Signals of Bladder Trouble

Dr. Sarvan Kiran Reddy

Bladder problems rarely announce themselves dramatically at the beginning. Most often, they creep in subtly, like an unwanted change in the way you live your routine without even realising it. Someone starts avoiding long meetings because they are afraid they might need the restroom urgently. Another person begins waking up multiple times at night, making sleep fragmented and unrefreshing. Over time, these small changes can significantly reduce one's quality of life, yet many people continue to live with them for months or even years before seeking help.

Recognising these changes is often the most difficult part. Many people dismiss them as a normal part of ageing, overworking, or a busy lifestyle. In reality, something deeper may be going on. Understanding the signs can help you take control before the problem becomes more complicated.

Frequent urination is one of the most common symptoms. While drinking enough water is important, needing to urinate every hour, especially during the day, can disrupt work, travel, and social life. Similarly, a sudden, strong urge to urinate that is difficult to control can be distressing. Some individuals may also experience pain or burning during urination, which can be a sign of infection or irritation.

Nighttime symptoms can be equally disruptive. Waking up more than once or twice to urinate can lead to fatigue, irritability, and difficulty concentrating the next day. Over time, poor sleep can affect mood, productivity, and overall health. Unfortunately, many people assume this is unavoidable and do not discuss it with a doctor.

Other warning signs include leakage when coughing, sneezing, laughing, or exercising, as well as a weak or interrupted urine stream. Some people may feel that their bladder never fully empties, leading to frequent trips to the toilet. These symptoms can be caused by a variety of factors, including infections, pelvic floor weakness, hormonal changes, enlarged prostate, diabetes, or even certain medications. Identifying the underlying cause is the key to effective treatment.

Lifestyle factors can also play a significant role. Excessive caffeine or alcohol intake, constipation, obesity, and smoking can all contribute to bladder problems. Making small changes, such as reducing fluid intake before bedtime, practising pelvic floor exercises, or maintaining a healthy weight, can sometimes lead to noticeable improvements.

Most importantly, bladder symptoms should not be ignored. Early evaluation can help rule out infections, kidney issues, or more serious conditions. Treatments are available for many of these problems, ranging from simple lifestyle changes to medication or specialised procedures. The earlier you seek help, the easier it is to find the right solution.

When the Bladder Speaks Up

Dr. Bhuban

Urinary symptoms often make people feel ashamed, so they avoid discussing them openly. It is better than anybody to come accustomed. Initially, as small, to control is avoiding a cough that becomes unbearable, leakage during weighing or sneezing, a sudden urge to urinate before reaching the toilet. Frequent bathroom visits, or repeated nighttime trips to the bathroom are possibly other conditions that quietly undermine comfort and independence.

Medical attention recognizes that such symptoms are not merely inconvenient or embarrassing. They may reflect underlying factors such as pelvic floor weakness, hormonal changes, urinary tract infections, overactive bladder, diabetes, or other chronic health conditions. Ignoring these early warning signs may allow symptoms to become more challenging to approach control and subsequent treatment.

One of the greatest barriers to effective management is delayed reporting. Many individuals wait years before they discuss bladder issues with a doctor, but actively believe that they can manage the problem themselves. Unfortunately, such delays sometimes result in a reduced and managed successfully when addressed early.

Clinicians in an early assessment can usually recommend simple interventions. When patients are encouraged to speak up early, healthcare professionals can often suggest lifestyle modifications, bladder training techniques, or targeted pharmacological treatments. Even before conditions is often misunderstood. Addressing these concerns openly can lead to earlier diagnosis, better outcomes, and improved overall well-being.

Content provided by MSN
Research for Better Medicines
No More Leaks

The Hidden Side of Urinary Health

Dr. Vikram CD

Urinary health has received much attention in recent years, yet many people still do not fully understand the conditions affecting the urinary system. Problems such as urinary tract infections, kidney stones, overactive bladder, and urinary incontinence are common, but they are often surrounded by misconceptions. As a result, many individuals delay seeking medical advice, sometimes for years, before they finally consult a doctor.

One of the most frustrating aspects of urinary problems is how easily they can disrupt daily life. Frequent urination can affect sleep, work, travel, and social activities. Pain or discomfort during urination can make even simple tasks difficult. Despite the significant impact these conditions can have on quality of life, many people feel embarrassed to discuss their symptoms openly. They may assume that nothing can be done or that they simply have to learn to live with the problem.

Fortunately, most urinary health issues can be effectively managed once they are properly diagnosed. Treatment options range from lifestyle changes and medications to minimally invasive procedures, depending on the underlying cause and severity of the condition. In many cases, relatively small changes can make a significant difference. Reducing caffeine intake, staying well hydrated, maintaining a healthy weight, and practising pelvic floor exercises can all help improve bladder control and reduce symptoms.

Another important factor is timing. Urinary infections can become more serious if left untreated, while chronic conditions may worsen gradually over time. Recognising early warning signs and seeking advice promptly can prevent unnecessary complications and improve long-term outcomes. Unfortunately, stigma and misinformation still prevent many people from taking this step.

Healthcare professionals can also play a role by creating a more supportive environment for discussion. Asking direct but sensitive questions, providing clear explanations, and reassuring patients that these problems are common can encourage individuals to come forward earlier. Public awareness campaigns may also help reduce the stigma associated with urinary health.

Ultimately, urinary health should be treated with the same importance as any other aspect of physical well-being. Paying attention to changes in bladder habits, recognising when something is not right, and seeking timely medical advice can lead to significant improvements in comfort and quality of life. The sooner these issues are addressed, the greater the chance of maintaining long-term urinary health.

Urinary Health, Under the Microscope

Dr. B. Dhanasekar

Urinary health tends to receive attention only when something goes wrong. Most people think about their urinary system only when they experience pain, infection, or a sudden change in their routine. By then, a small issue may have already become more difficult to manage. Many problems can be detected and treated much more easily when they are identified early, yet awareness remains surprisingly low.

One of the most common misconceptions is that urinary symptoms are always obvious. In reality, they can develop quietly over time. Frequent urination, mild discomfort, or a slight change in urine colour may be dismissed as minor inconveniences. Because these signs do not always cause immediate distress, they are often ignored until they begin to affect daily life. Unfortunately, this delay can allow underlying conditions to progress further than they might have otherwise.

Another factor contributing to poor urinary health is the stigma that still surrounds certain conditions. Many people feel embarrassed to discuss issues related to the bladder, kidneys, or urinary tract, even with a doctor. As a result, they may rely on incomplete information from friends, family, or the internet instead of seeking professional advice. This can lead to unnecessary anxiety, misdiagnosis, or delayed treatment.

Lifestyle plays a significant role in urinary health, although its impact is often underestimated. Dehydration can increase the risk of infections and kidney stones, while poor dietary habits may contribute to obesity and other conditions that place additional pressure on the urinary system. Regular physical activity, adequate fluid intake, and good bowel habits can all help support long-term urinary health.

Women are particularly vulnerable to urinary tract infections due to anatomical differences, but men are not immune to these problems either. Prostate enlargement, kidney stones, and urinary retention can affect men of all ages, sometimes with serious consequences if left untreated. Both men and women can benefit from greater awareness of the warning signs and the importance of timely evaluation.

Fortunately, most urinary health issues can be managed effectively once they are properly diagnosed. Treatment options range from simple lifestyle changes and medications to minimally invasive procedures, depending on the underlying cause and severity of the condition. In many cases, relatively small changes can make a significant difference. Reducing caffeine intake, staying well hydrated, maintaining a healthy weight, and practising pelvic floor exercises can all help improve bladder control and reduce symptoms.

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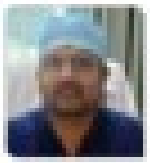
Continence: The Body's Overlooked Conversation



Dr. Pragyaan Jain

Continence is often discussed only when it fails, yet it reflects a remarkable and constant conversation between the brain, pelvic floor muscles, nerves, sensors, and bladder tissue. This complex interaction allows us to store urine, recognise when it is time to empty, and release it at a socially appropriate moment. When this system works well, it is almost entirely invisible. We rarely think about it, plan around it, or even appreciate how much coordination is required to maintain control throughout the day.

Many people only begin to notice bladder health when something goes wrong. A sudden cough that causes leakage, a sneeze that interrupts a conversation, or a need to visit the toilet more frequently than before can quickly change how someone moves through their world. Over time, small adjustments can become habits. Fluid intake may be reduced, exercise avoided, and social plans modified to stay close to familiar bathrooms. These changes are rarely dramatic, but they can gradually narrow a person's sense of freedom and confidence.

Pelvic floor dysfunction is not limited to one group, although certain factors can increase the likelihood of developing symptoms. Childbirth, hormonal changes, ageing, chronic constipation, persistent coughing, and even high-impact physical activity can all place stress on the pelvic floor muscles and nerves that support continence. Men can also experience urinary urgency, leakage, or retention, particularly as they get older or after prostate surgery. Despite how common these issues are, many people assume they are simply a normal part of ageing and do not realise that effective assessment and treatment options are available.

Early conversations can make a significant difference in how quickly someone receives appropriate support. Clinicians can help identify contributing factors, rule out underlying medical conditions, and guide patients towards treatments that may include pelvic floor rehabilitation, bladder retraining, lifestyle adjustments, medication, or, in some cases, surgical intervention. The goal is not always to eliminate every episode entirely, but to restore a sense of control and reduce the impact on daily life.

Continence is also closely linked to dignity, confidence, and emotional well-being. Feeling able to travel, exercise, work, and socialise without constant worry can have a profound effect on mental health and overall quality of life. Encouraging more open discussion can help reduce the stigma that often prevents people from seeking help. When continence is treated as a routine part of healthcare rather than a taboo subject, more people can receive the support they need, sooner.

Why Leakage Should Not Be Dismissed

Dr. Pramod Hiliya

Urinary leakage is often treated as an inconvenience rather than a medical concern. Many people quietly manage it for years, assuming that nothing can be done or that it is simply a part of ageing, childbirth, or menopause. Unfortunately, this silence can delay diagnosis and treatment, allowing a manageable problem to become more disruptive than it needs to be. In many cases, leakage is not a sign of weakness but a symptom of an underlying condition that can be identified and addressed with the right support.

There are several different types of urinary leakage, and understanding which one is affecting you can help guide treatment. Stress incontinence usually occurs during coughing, sneezing, laughing, or exercising, when pressure on the bladder overcomes the muscles that normally keep urine in place. Urge incontinence is more sudden and intense, with a strong need to urinate followed by involuntary loss before you can reach the toilet. Overflow leakage can occur when the bladder never fully empties, while mixed incontinence is a combination of these patterns. Each type may respond to different approaches, which is why a proper assessment is so important.

Many factors can contribute to urinary leakage, including pregnancy, childbirth, ageing, hormonal changes, chronic constipation, obesity, persistent coughing, and certain medical conditions such as diabetes or neurological disorders. Lifestyle habits can also play a role, as excessive caffeine or alcohol intake may irritate the bladder and increase the frequency and urgency of urination. Even medications can sometimes affect bladder control. Identifying these contributing factors can be an important first step toward finding the most effective treatment.

Fortunately, there are many options available to help manage or reduce urinary leakage. Pelvic floor exercises are often the first line of treatment and can be highly effective for many people when performed correctly and consistently. Bladder retraining, lifestyle modifications, medication, and in some cases minimally invasive procedures may also be recommended. The right approach depends on the individual, but the majority of women can see significant improvement with appropriate care.

Perhaps most importantly, urinary leakage is not something you should have to live with in silence. Many people feel embarrassed to discuss it, but healthcare professionals are very familiar with these concerns and can offer practical, non-judgmental support. Seeking help can restore confidence, improve quality of life, and prevent the condition from becoming more difficult to manage over time. A simple conversation with your doctor can be the first step toward regaining control and peace of mind.

A Leak Is Never Just a Leak

Dr. Anand Patil

Urinary leakage is sometimes viewed as an isolated inconvenience, but its effects often extend far beyond the physical act of urination. Many people gradually change their routines, limit their activities, and withdraw from situations they once enjoyed in order to avoid the embarrassment or discomfort associated with leakage. Over time, these adjustments can significantly reduce a person's overall quality of life, affecting everything from confidence and relationships to work and social participation.

The impact of urinary leakage can be both emotional and practical. Many individuals experience feelings of shame, frustration, or anxiety, even when they are unsure how common the problem is. In other cases, women may avoid exercise, travel, or long meetings because they are afraid they might need the restroom urgently. Another person begins waking up multiple times at night, making sleep fragmented and unrefreshing. Over time, this constant vigilance can quietly erode confidence and quality of life.

What makes urinary leakage particularly challenging is that it often develops gradually. Many women initially dismiss it as a normal part of aging, childbirth, or menopause. They may adjust their routines, use pads discreetly, or simply endure the discomfort without seeking help. Unfortunately, this silence can delay diagnosis and treatment, allowing the problem to become more entrenched than it needs to be. Early evaluation can often lead to simple, effective solutions that may not require surgery or long-term medication.

Another important aspect is the role of lifestyle factors in urinary health. Chronic constipation, repeated urinary infections, obesity, and even persistent coughing can place additional pressure on the pelvic floor muscles that support the bladder. Addressing these underlying contributors can be just as important as treating the leakage itself. A holistic approach that considers diet, hydration, bowel habits, and overall health can make a significant difference in long-term outcomes.

Equally important is the emotional support women receive when they do seek help. Many report feeling relieved simply to be heard and reassured that they are not alone. Clinicians who approach these conversations with empathy and without judgment can help patients feel safe discussing symptoms they may have carried in silence for years. Creating this kind of environment is essential for encouraging timely care.

Ultimately, urinary leakage is not a sign of weakness or failure. It is a medical condition with a wide range of effective treatments, from pelvic floor exercises and lifestyle modifications to minimally invasive procedures. The first step is recognizing that help is available and that relief is possible. Encouraging women to speak openly about their symptoms can transform not only their physical health but also their confidence and overall well-being.

This is a patient awareness initiative by MSN India. The views and opinions expressed here are based on the experience of the doctors and are not endorsed by MSN India. Readers are advised to seek a necessary medical advice from a qualified medical practitioner.

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

MASTERING OTHERS IS STRENGTH. MASTERING YOURSELF IS TRUE POWER — LAO TZU

JEREMY ALLEN WHITE PRAISES UK FOR BAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER 16: 'THERE NEEDS TO BE A CORRECTION'

NEW 'SPIDER-MAN' TRAILER SHOWS TOM HOLLAND FIGHTING HULK AND LOSING CONTROL OF HIS POWERS

Vance warns Israeli critics over Iran deal: Trump is your only ally

Reminds Them 2/3rd Of Arms That Protect Israel Come From US

Washington: US Vice President JD Vance lashed out at Israeli critics of the Iran deal on Thursday, saying President Donald Trump is Israel's only ally in a sharp rebuke that referenced the billions in US defence aid the country receives.

As the Trump administration defended its deal to end the war with Iran, Vance was asked about a report that Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was fuming over the agreement. Vance said he had not heard such comments from Netanyahu but criticised members of the Israeli PM's cabinet, whom he said have attacked the deal and personally attacked Trump. "My message to them would be twofold. No. 1: Donald J. Trump is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time," Vance told reporters at the White House. "If I was in the cabinet of the Israeli govt, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have anywhere left in the entire world."

He said he would also remind those cabinet members that two-thirds of the defensive weapons that have protected Israel "have been built by American hands and paid for by American tax dollars." The US provides Israel with roughly $4 billion in military assistance a year. "The problem for Israel is not Donald J. Trump and anybody in Israel who thinks their biggest problem is the president of the US needs to wake up and smell the reality of the situation that country is in," Vance said. Netanyahu's office and Israel's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Vance's remarks at a White House news briefing reflected the growing tensions between the two longtime allies.

Israeli officials across the political spectrum, including some of Netanyahu's allies, have criticised the agreement, saying it did not address their concerns over Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and would tie down Israel's military operations against the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia in Lebanon. Trump tried to play down Israel's concerns during closing remarks on Wednesday at the G7 summit in France. Netanyahu could use a "softer touch" in the fight against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, Trump said, in his latest public rebuke of the US partner in the war against Iran. Vance cited approval of the deal by Gulf states: "They're saying this is an amazingly transformative thing for the region, because either way, we and the broader region win."

Vance's remarks amplified those he made in an interview with the New York Times, released earlier on Thursday, in which he criticised Israel for a "weird panic" and "freakout" over the agreement struck between the US and Iran. "I find this whole freakout in Israel a little bit odd because I think that it comes from a place of mistrust, and I think that America has earned the trust of that region of the world," Vance said. Citing specific critics of the deal — Israeli ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich — Vance said: "I guess my response to them would be: What is your exact proposal? You're a country of 9m people. You can't just kill your way out of solving every single national security problem that you have." REUTERS

AFP

Trump tours of the Chateau de Versailles with Macron on Thursday

JD: US has lifted blockade, allowed more than dozen ships through to Iranian ports

Vice President JD Vance said Thursday that the US navy has allowed more than a dozen ships through to Iranian ports, lifting a blockade as part of an agreement to end the war. Vance made the announcement at a White House press briefing, where he said more oil is now flowing through the Strait of Hormuz. He said more than 12.5 million barrels went through the shipping channel Wednesday night. "So we're also honouring our end of the early part of the agreement on the military side," Vance said. Meanwhile, Iranian state media said that shipping has "normalised" at Iran's southern ports but added that the Strait of Hormuz remains supervised and under the control of the Iranian military and transiting through the vital waterway still requires coordination. AP

Israel demarcates expanded Lebanon occupation zone, Bibi is staying put

Jerusalem: Israel published a map on Thursday showing an expanded military control zone in southern Lebanon and said it would not rule out carrying out attacks beyond it, challenging the terms of a US-Iran pact that calls for Lebanon's sovereignty to be respected.

A senior Israeli official said Israel was holding "stubborn negotiations" with President Trump's administration over keeping its troops deployed 10kms into southern Lebanon as it pursues the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia.

An interim agreement signed on Wednesday to end the US-Israeli war with Iran calls for an end to fighting on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and for parties to ensure "the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon".

Israel has rejected calls to withdraw troops from southern Lebanon. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel's military will stay in southern Lebanon. Netanyahu said Israel must "maintain a security zone in southern Lebanon, and it requires that we must not leave there as long as Israel's security needs require it." Hezbollah has continued to launch attacks on Israeli positions. The military released a new map that shows its troops are operating several kilometres deeper into the country, including near Hezbollah stronghold of Nabatieh. REUTERS

Ukraine drones set a Russian refinery ablaze in major attack

If Kyiv Is Going To Burn, Moscow Will Burn Too: Zelensky

Reuters

AFP

Explosion at Moscow oil refinery after Ukrainian drone attacks; a woman walks out as black smoke rises

Ukraine struck a major Moscow oil refinery Thursday for a second time in a week, sending huge plumes of black smoke over the capital and disrupting hundreds of flights at its airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia's full-scale invasion over four years ago, officials said.

Ukraine has repeatedly targeted Russian oil facilities, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for the war and make Russians feel the consequences of the invasion. Some areas have reported fuel shortages.

The attack by dozens of drones came hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he had held "an important coordination call" with the presidents of the US and France and had won key pledges of further support from this week's G7 summit. "If Ukraine is going to burn, your Moscow will burn too," Zelensky said, adding that the attack was part of Kyiv's effort to bring Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table. "It is time to end the aggression, time to end this war."

Zelensky held talks Thursday in Brussels with Nato and EU leaders, and the German and Ukrainian defence ministers signed a deal to jointly develop an air defence system to counter ballistic missiles. Zelensky described it as the start of an "anti-ballistic missile coalition" and invited others to join. Russia has relentlessly struck Ukraine with those types of missiles, which air defences struggle to counter.

"Russia is on the back foot: militarily, economically and politically," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on X after meeting Thursday with Ukrainian defence minister Mykhailo Fedorov. "Now is the time to provide Ukraine with even greater support and to exert even more pressure on Russia to end the war."

The attack also temporarily halted flights from four Moscow airports, transport and aviation authorities said. In the greater Moscow region, a drone hit a residential building, according to Gov. Andrei Vorobyov. Buildings elsewhere were damaged by drone debris, injuring 17 people, he added. "If Putin does not want to end this war and wants to continue it, we will not sit quietly," Zelensky said. AP

Versailles vs Versailles: Germany was punished, Iran 'rewarded'

▶Continued from P 1

Former vice-president Mike Pence warned that the agreement resembled the "appeasement" policies Republicans spent years attacking in the Obama era. Conservative pro-Israel commentator Mark Levin practically burst a blood vessel denouncing the MoU, raging, "When the dust settles, the American people are going to be furious."

Yet if critics expected a historical pushback or contrition from Trump, they were mistaken. "These fools, who think I haven't been tough enough on Iran are either jealous, bad people, or stupid," Trump wrote on social media. The president instead pointed to soaring stock markets, falling oil prices and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz as proof that his strategy had worked, even as much of the world breathed a sigh of relief that the conflict had ended, at least for now.

Adding to the geopolitical theatre was Pakistan's curious disappearing act. Islamabad had spent days suggesting it was playing an indispensable host, facilitator, messenger, bridge-builder and miracle worker in bringing the deal together. Yet when the cameras rolled at Versailles, Pakistan's leaders were nowhere in sight, which, some trolls noted, was just as well given the country's own record of signing surrender documents.

The initial diplomatic plan was to have all negotiating parties (including Pakistan and co-mediator Qatar) gather in person for a formal, joint signing ceremony at the Burgenstock Resort in Switzerland. However, the US and Iran decided to fast-track the process by exchanging electronic signatures ahead of schedule to bring the ceasefire and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz into immediate effect. The Switzerland ceremony is still expected to go ahead on Friday.

History buffs meanwhile grabbed the popcorn to chortle about the irony of Trump signing a sketchy deal in a palace full of warnings, wondering if Macron had spotted an irresistible opportunity to undermine Trump, with whom he has an on-off camaraderie. "I wouldn't be surprised if Macron weaponised Trump's complete ignorance of history and told him, 'Mr President, Versailles is where the most consequential deal of the 20th century was signed. Yours deserves the same stage'," one observer wrote. In fairness, there is no evidence Macron intentionally lured Trump into a historical trap, given that the US president himself — in thrall of everything gilded — appeared keen to visit the palace. French officials insist Versailles was chosen because it is France's premier venue for hosting world leaders. But the comparisons were irresistible.

Almost 107 years ago, another American president, Woodrow Wilson, left Versailles believing he had remade the world and secured peace for generations. Instead, the treaty became one of history's most controversial diplomatic documents, with Germany regarding it as a humiliation, and Congress rejecting key elements. Wilson exhausted himself defending it and suffered a debilitating stroke, and in the view of many historians, Versailles helped create the conditions that ultimately produced Adolf Hitler and the Second World War.

The difference, though, is that while the Versailles treaty of 1919 punished Germany, Trump's Iran agreement of 2026 does the opposite, offering Tehran sanctions relief, reconstruction funds and economic reintegration. Analysts note that where Wilson's Versailles carried a whip, Trump's carries a cheque book. The president and his supporters assert though that it is not a blank cheque, and if Iran does not keep its end of the deal, the bombing will resume.

Ebola death toll passes 200 in DR Congo: Agency

Addis Ababa: The Ebola epidemic has claimed 202 lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a little over one month after it was declared, the African Union's health agency said Thursday. "What is worrisome for us is the contact tracing status," said Wessam Mankoula, a doctor at the Africa CDC. "Because of security challenges and accessibility of some of the areas for our responders from Africa CDC, WHO and different partners... we still see this contact tracing is low." The Red Cross warned this week that the outbreak in the DRC, declared on May 15, has yet to peak and could take a year to contain. AFP

Indian man charged for killing compatriot in UK

Naomi Canton

London: An Indian national has appeared in court in London charged with murdering another Indian by stabbing him to death outside a shop in Southall, west London.

Navjot Singh (20), an Indian national, appeared at Westminster magistrates' court on Thursday and was charged with the murder of Gurbhej Singh, also an Indian citizen, unlawfully wounding Jaswinder Singh with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, and possession of a knife in a public place without good reason.

He was remanded in custody and will next appear at the Old Bailey on June 22. No pleas were entered.

Navjot was arrested on Tuesday in the Southall area on suspicion of murder and held in police custody.

Police were called at 12.41 am on June 10 following reports of a stabbing. Officers attended alongside the London Ambulance Service and found two men with injuries.

Despite the efforts of paramedics, Gurbhej Singh (26) was pronounced dead at the scene, having sustained a knife wound. Gurbhej had moved to the UK four years ago. A second man, in his 30s, also sustained injuries and was taken to hospital, but has since been discharged.

Af govt bans use of smartphones across all military and civilian depts

Kabul: Govt workers in different parts of Afghanistan have started switching off their smartphones, following an order imposed Wednesday that they told AFP came from supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. A letter announcing the ban on smartphones for all govt employees started circulating on social media last week under the emblem of the Supreme Court, which has not responded to AFP's requests to comment.

"All the heads of departments in their respective provinces are advised to inform their staff that using smartphones is strictly banned effective 17 June," said the letter. It referred to all employees of the military and civilian departments, mentioning that exemptions could only be granted by the supreme leader.

In remote Badakhshan, in northeastern Afghanistan, an employee of the provincial information department said the penalty for breaking the rule was six months in prison.

How widely the rule was implemented across Afghanistan and the scale of its impact were not entirely clear. But three govt workers in Badakhshan told AFP it would be hard for them to do their jobs, speaking anonymously.

A teacher described the decision as "truly heartbreaking" and said his smartphone was confiscated on Wednesday, before being returned with a warning not to carry it again. "We need apps to stay connected with the students and hear their problems," he said. AFP

Indian teen dies, but saves mother in NYC accident

New York: An Indian teenager died while trying to save his mother, who was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage after the horse suddenly bolted at the famous Central Park in New York City. Romanch Mahajan, 18, was on his first trip to New York with his family when the incident took place on Wednesday, New York Times reported.

The driver stopped to take a family picture, and in an instant, the horse bolted. It tore up onto the sidewalk and bumped onto the grass, accelerating crazily, the driver racing behind, the report added. "We were yelling, 'Help me, help me!'" Deepak Mahajan, Romanch's father, said.

The family clung to one another, but when Deepak's wife, Priya, fell out of the carriage, Romanch jumped down to try to help her, he said. "My son, just to save his mother, he fell off," said Deepak.

"The horse got scared and ran super fast," Tatianna Bresler, who works at the Tavern on the Green, said. Romanch hit his head on the ground and lay still. He died Wednesday night at a hospital, the report added. The rest of the family, father, mother and Romanch's younger brother, escaped with minor injuries, it said. The accident is the latest in a series of mishaps involving carriage horses.

The union that represents carriage drivers said it never should have happened. "This is unacceptable. A driver is not supposed to leave the carriage to take photos - ever. We support a full investigation into the accident." PTI

Romanch Mahajan in Central Park on Wednesday afternoon

B'desh parl speaker waives tradition of bowing at the time of entering House

Dhaka: Bangladesh parliament speaker on Thursday said MPs need not bow their heads while entering or exiting the House, nearly three weeks after an opposition MP deemed the practice to be "anti-Islamic". "You will pay respect to the speaker's chair maintaining the practice of your respective faiths," speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said.

On June 6, Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Mujibur Rahman opposed the practice of bowing saying it was contradictory to Islamic beliefs. The speaker said that during scrutiny, he found that lawmakers were relieved from bowing their heads under a 2006 amendment to the parliamentary Rules of Procedure. Despite the amendment, most lawmakers during subsequent sessions continued to practice the tradition while some waved their right hand as a gesture of respect. PTI

'HPV vax eliminates cervical cancer deaths in UK's young'

London: The HPV vaccine for cervical cancer has reduced the risk of dying from the disease before the age of 30 in England to almost zero, the first study of its kind showed Thursday. Between 2020 and 2024, no women in the country aged between 20 and 24 died from cervical cancer, according to the study published in The Lancet medical journal.

LANCET REPORT

In addition to the complete absence of deaths for 2020-24, there was also an 80% reduction in the same age group for the four preceding years between 2015 and 2019, the study which examined nation-wide mortality data found. "Thanks to HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination and cervical screening, a future where almost nobody gets cervical cancer is now firmly in sight," said Michelle Mitchell, chief executive of Cancer Research UK which funded the research.

The findings by researchers from Queen Mary University of London follows the introduction of the vaccine for British children aged 12-13. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Certain strains can lead to cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and other cancers later in life. The vaccine was rolled out for girls in 2008 and for boys in 2019. "Until now, it has not been possible to show directly that HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination reduces cervical cancer deaths," Cancer Research UK added in a statement.

Australia in 2007 became the first country to embark on a publicly funded school-based HPV vaccination programme targeting adolescent girls. In 2020, the World Health Organisationlaunched a global strategy to eliminate the disease which is one of the most common female cancers. AFP

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

A man dives into the Canal Saint-Martin, as Paris opens the site to swimmers earlier than planned due to a heatwave on Thursday. Temperatures are forecast to approach 40°C later in the week

Archbishop says sorry for Church of England's role in forced adoptions

The Archbishop of Canterbury, **Sarah Mullally**, apologised Thursday for the Church of England's role in forcibly separating 185,000 children from unmarried mothers and putting them up for adoption in the decades after WWII. At that time Christian churches and the British state created a system in which young women with children outside of marriage were shamed and coerced into giving up their babies to comply with what they said were the prevailing social norms. The Church of England's role in the practice was through so-called "mother and baby homes" where unmarried women were sent, often against their will, during pregnancy or after giving birth and separated from their babies — similar to a scheme run in Ireland by the Catholic Church. "We are profoundly sorry for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced — and still carried — by many people because of historical adoption practices in homes affiliated to the Church of England," Mullally was quoted as saying in a Church of England statement. The govt is also expected to apologise on behalf of the state.

An ancient oak tree said to have sheltered legendary Robin Hood has died: A massive ancient oak tree linked to the legend of Robin Hood may have been loved to death. The 1,200-year-old Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is believed to have died after it didn't sprout leaves this spring, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said Thursday. Visitors over the past two centuries who viewed the tree's gnarled limbs and sprawling canopy in Nottingham compressed the soil, making it difficult for rain to reach its roots, the conservation group said. The tree is said to have sheltered Robin Hood, the legendary 13th-century bandit who stole from the rich and gave to the poor and took refuge in the forest when being pursued by the sheriff of Nottingham. It got its name after being mentioned in a book on oaks by Major Hayman Rooke in 1790 that led to the first wave of fans who flocked to the forest.

UAE sets minimum social media use age at 15, mandates age checks

Dubai: The UAE has set a minimum age of 15 for social media use, becoming the first Arab country to introduce such a curb as govts worldwide seek to address growing concerns over the impact of online platforms on children.

Under a resolution approved on Thursday, children under 15 will be prohibited from creating, using or operating personal social media accounts. The ban means they will not be able to post content, comment, share or join public groups, the government's media office said.

Teenagers aged 15 and 16 will be allowed to use social media platforms subject to safeguards, including age-appropriate content controls, curbs on interaction with unknown users, screen-time management tools and parental supervision features.

The rules apply to all social media platforms operating in the UAE and require companies to implement robust age-verification measures, including digital identity checks and artificial intelligence-supported technologies. Self-declaration of age will not be accepted as a valid form of verification.

Platforms must also disable accounts created by children under 15, prevent users from circumventing age-verification systems and refrain from using children's personal data for targeted advertising or behavioural profiling.

The UAE govt said the measures were designed to address concerns over children's exposure to inappropriate content, unsafe online interactions, excessive social media use and the collection of personal data. Social media companies will have up to 12 months to comply with the new regulations.

The UAE said the framework aligns with international efforts to strengthen online child protection while balancing digital access with safety. Several countries, including Australia have moved to tighten restrictions on children's use of social media amid mounting concerns about its effects on mental health. REUTERS

Reuters

Boys look at their mobile phones at a gaming centre in Dubai

Anya joins cast of The Hunt for Gollum as an elf

Peter Serafinowicz boards Potter series as Peeves the Poltergeist

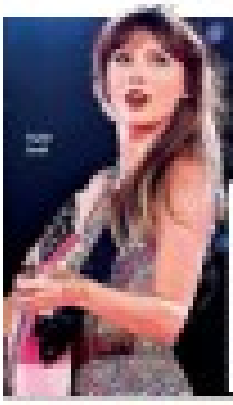
GIFT DAD WHAT HE RARELY GAVE HIMSELF: THE LUXURY OF SLOWING DOWN.

TRUEFITT&HILL

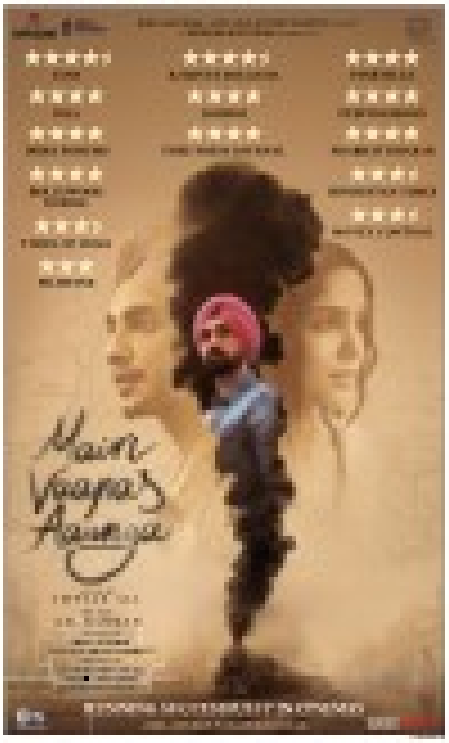
SIGNATURE SERVICES

ROYAL SHAVE ROYAL HAIRCUT

ROYAL MANICURE & PEDICURE ROYAL BOARD SHAVE



Taylor's record run rolls on



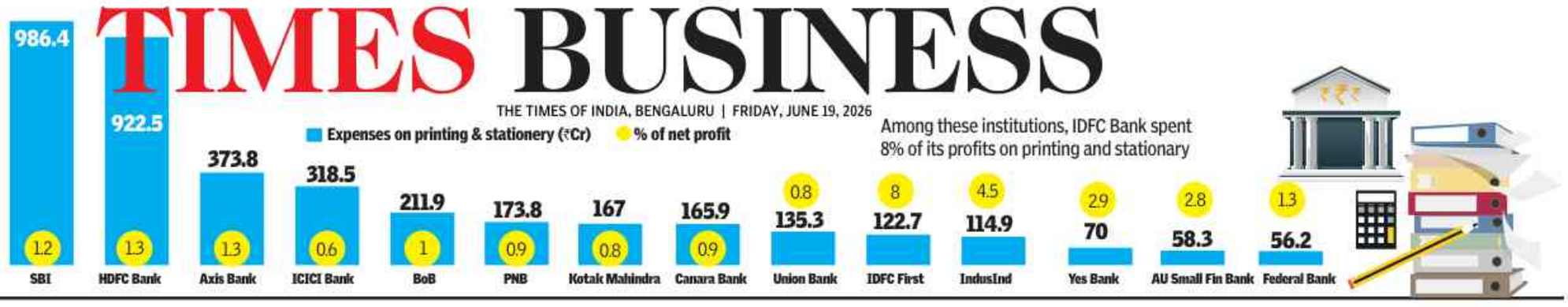
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

IN HARD COPY THEY TRUST

Ever wondered how much banks spend on printing and stationary in this day and age when India's financial institutions are relentlessly pushing for digital banking? Here's a look at the amount some of the top entities in the country spent in FY25

Source: Groww


Expenses on printing & stationery (₹Cr)
% of net profit
Among these institutions, IDFC Bank spent 8% of its profits on printing and stationary
SBI 986.4 1.2
HDFC Bank 922.5 1.3
Axis Bank 373.8 1.3
ICICI Bank 318.5 0.6
BoB 211.9 1
PNB 173.8 0.9
Kotak Mahindra 167 0.8
Canara Bank 165.9 0.9
Union Bank 135.3 0.8
IDFC First 122.7 8
IndusInd 114.9 4.5
Yes Bank 70 2.9
AU Small Fin Bank 58.3 2.8
Federal Bank 56.2 1.3

FPI buying of G-Sec up amid push for forex

Securities Worth Over $2Bn Bought Since Rule Change

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Foreign funds have been pouring money into sovereign bonds after govt and RBI, earlier this month, eased rules for these investors to invest in govt securities (G-Secs), aimed mainly at supporting the rupee. Between June 5, the day the rules were changed and now, FPIs have net bought G-Secs worth about $2 billion, official data showed. Some estimates, however, said the total is nearing the $3 billion mark.

Among the rules that were changed was removal of withholding tax for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) investing in G-Secs and increase in some of the investment limits in these bonds. Govt's decision to ease investment rules for NRIs to invest in India have also been aiding this FPI surge in govt bonds, market players said.

According to Sandeep Bagla, CEO, TRUST Mutual Fund, the decision to remove withholding tax on interest on G-Secs has attracted FPI flows from a variety of players - real money investors with a longer term horizon, multi asset funds who have shifted to G-Secs for margin to exchanges to support derivative positions and bond traders.

"Funds have invested across the yield curve from 5-year to over 30-year G-Secs as outlook on rupee is positive now," Bagla said.

Data from NSDL showed that while nearly $1.8 billion came through the RBI-approved Debt-FAR (fully accessible route), another $126 million came through the Debt-VRR (voluntary retention route).

Debt market players said that govt's and RBI's decision on G-Secs could now also allow some Indian sovereign bonds to be included in global bond indices, resulting into more FPI buying interest in these papers.

As the result of the foreign fund flows into G-Secs, since June 5 the benchmark 10-year yield has softened by about 14 basis points: From its close at 6.98% on June 5, the 10-year bond yield on Thursday closed at 6.84%.

YIELDING RESULTS

- **Nearly $1.8 billion** has come through RBI-approved Debt-FAR (fully accessible route)
- **Another $126 million** has come through Debt-VRR (voluntary retention route)
- Since June 5 benchmark 10-year **yield has softened by about 14 basis points:** From its close at 6.98% on June 5, the yield on Thursday closed at 6.84%

Individuals make up 47% of NSE owners

With About 4Cr Shares, D-Mart's Damani Largest Non-Institutional Holder In Bourse

Reeba Zachariah & Partha Sinha | TNN

Mumbai: To invest in a company, seasoned investors and businessmen look at the strength of the firm's operations and its future prospects. Usually, they don't care if the company is listed or unlisted. The long list of individual shareholders in the National Stock Exchange (NSE) proves this point.

Late on Wednesday, NSE filed its draft prospectus with markets regulator Sebi to go public through the IPO route that is estimated to be in the upwards of Rs 30,000 crore. This will make it the largest Indian IPO ever.

NSE's draft IPO documents disclosed that several top investors and seasoned businessmen were holding stakes in the country's largest bourse. These stakes were built up through trades in the unlisted market, with no plans to sell in the public offer. Of the 421 shareholders in NSE, nearly 200 are individual shareholders, with billionaire investor and D-Mart founder Radhakishan Damani topping the table with a 1.58% stake. Based on an estimated IPO price of Rs 2,200 for each NSE share, Damani's holding is valued at about Rs 8,600 crore.

The 70-year-old is the 13th largest shareholder in NSE while life insurance major LIC, with a 10.72% stake, is the largest shareholder. LIC is followed by Singapore's Temasek with 4.54% stake.

TOP INDIVIDUAL SHAREHOLDERS IN NSE

Shareholders	Holding (%)	Value (₹cr)*
Radhakishan Damani	1.58	8599
Sunil Kant Munjal	0.41	2245
S Gopalakrishnan	0.38	2074
Siddharth Balachandran	0.38	2049
Vanaja Sundar Iyer	0.18	968

*At an estimated price of ₹2,200/share; Source: NSE DRHP

DAMANI AMONG TOP 15 INVESTORS

- RK Damani is the only individual shareholder among NSE's top 15
- Damani holds nearly 4 crore shares, but will not be selling
- Four individual shareholders are selling in the offer
- Together they're selling 34,000 NSE shares

Damani, who is known for his successful stock picks and building solid businesses, was also the largest individual shareholder in HDFC Bank after its 1995 IPO. He also holds an indirect stake in NSE through Damani Estate and Finance, which owns another 0.07%.

Sunil Kant Munjal, chairman of Hero Enterprise, owns 0.41% of NSE, making him the second-largest individual shareholder. His stake is estimated to be worth about Rs 2,245 crore.

S Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys, and Dubai-based investor Siddharth Balachandran each hold 0.38%, with their stakes worth a little over Rs 2,000 crore apiece. Balachandran also holds about 2% in BSE, NSE's rival exchange, where he is the largest individual shareholder.

Among other individuals, Vanaja Sundar Iyer owns 0.18% in NSE, worth nearly Rs 1,000 crore. Iyer, along with Siddharth Iyer, runs SI Investments & Broking, according to its website. NSE's shareholder list also shows Siddharth Iyer with a 0.15% stake.

Ignatius Noronha, who exited D-Mart as CEO earlier this year, owns 0.12% in NSE, while Sobha founder PNC Menon owns 0.08%, and well-known investor Dolly Khanna holds a 0.06% stake in the country's largest bourse.

Other shareholders include Ambuja Cements founder Narotam Sekhsaria and his son Pulkit Sekhsaria.

Industrialists have also routed their investments in NSE through family offices and closely held outfits — Adani Properties and Serum Institute, among others, also own shares in NSE.

Pet healthcare startup Vetic raises $40m

Bengaluru: Pet healthcare startup Vetic has raised $40 million led by Bessemer Venture Partners, as it looks to expand its clinic network, at-home care services and technology platform amid growing demand for organised pet healthcare in India. Existing investors Greenoaks Capital, Lachy Groom and JSW Family Office also participated in the round. Bessemer, existing backer, increased its investment as the firm scales its integrated pet healthcare model. TNN

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JOYS OF FESTIVITIES
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This product maps to the following SDGs and contributes towards Sustainable India.

Social security relief extended for Indian executives in UK

Need To Produce Cert Of EPFO Contribution Here

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian professionals working with their company's affiliates in the UK or on an onsite assignment will be exempted from social security contributions for five years, instead of three years agreed earlier, on producing a certificate that they are contributing to EPFO in Delhi.

The move will reduce an outgo of 15% and cover 90-95% of Indian workers in the UK, whose number is estimated at over 75,000 at present. The new social security agreement or the Double Convention Agreement (DCC) will be implemented from July 15, along with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) where govt has managed to get concessions for a large chunk of steel exports under new tariffs.

While Indian steel exports to the UK were to the tune of $890 million, 188 products with shipments valued at $137 million were affected, but market access for these products has been secured through a mix of measures, such as country-specific and residual quotas under the bilateral trade pact, an official said. Around 85% of India's steel exports to the UK have been exempted from Britain's upcoming steel safeguard rules.

The UK's steel safeguard measures, which apply to all countries, were a key stumbling block in the rollout of the trade pact signed last year.

On Wednesday, the deal was sealed and announced after a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Keir Starmer. The UK duties will cut duty-free steel import quotas by 60% from July 1, with imports above the prescribed limits subject to a 50% tariff from 25% at present. The details of the India-UK steel deal will be announced on July 1.

The DCC is expected to help save at least Rs 4,000 crore annually for Indian workers, while helping improve their competitiveness compared with countries that already have similar agreements with the UK.

Karo Sambhav raises ₹56cr in pre-series round

New Delhi: Karo Sambhav, a circular economy entity that has spent nine years developing collection and recycling infrastructure for e-waste, has raised Rs 56 crore in a pre-series A round from Rainmatter by Zerodha. The investment will go toward scaling recycling infrastructure capable of recovering critical and high-value materials from e-waste & allied waste streams, the company said. TNN

Keki Mistry gets 3-mth extension as HDFC chairman

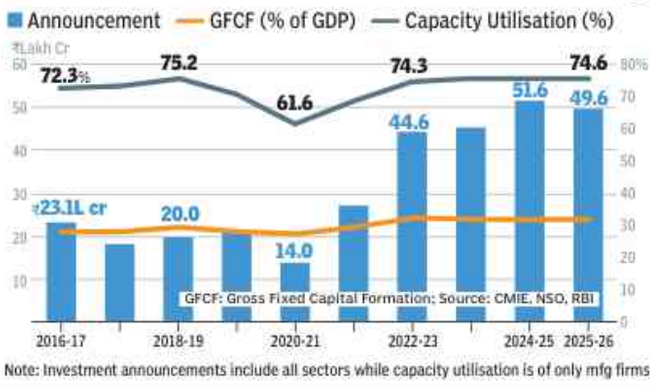
Mumbai: HDFC Bank on Thursday said RBI has approved a three-month extension of Keki Mistry's tenure as interim part-time chairman, allowing him to continue until Sept 18, 2026 or until a regular part-time chairman is appointed, whichever is earlier, according to an exchange filing.

The approval follows an application made by the bank to RBI during an ongoing leadership transition. In the same meeting, the board approved convening the bank's 32nd annual general meeting on Aug 5, 2026 through two-way video-conferencing.

The board also proposed a dividend of Rs 13 per equity share of Re 1 each for the year ended March 31, 2026, subject to shareholder approval. The dividend will be paid on or after Aug 6, 2026 if approved. TNN

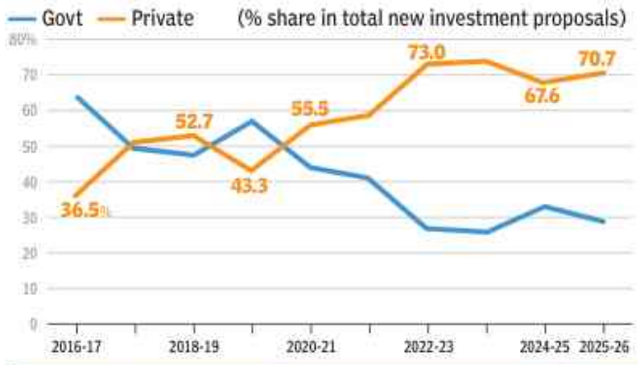
Pvt Sector Takes The Wheel As Investments Rev Up

Investment intentions show traction post Covid as capacity utilisation levels rise and stabilise in 74-75% region, according to a BoB report. There was, however, a slight dip in proposals last fiscal



Note: Investment announcements include all sectors while capacity utilisation is of only mfg firms

For the 4 years just before Covid, share of govt in total announcements averaged 54.2%. Post pandemic, the private sector dominated with avg share of 71.3% between FY23 and FY26



Electricity & transport services lead, accounting for nearly 50% of Rs 191 lakh cr total investment announcements made in last 4 years

Investment Announcements	Total (FY23–FY26) ₹ lakh cr	Share %
Electricity	50.9	26.6
Transport Services	43.6	22.8
Chemicals	28.0	14.7
Metals	17.3	9.1
IT	11.2	5.9
Machinery	11.0	5.8
Real estate	10.4	5.5
Auto sector	4.7	2.4
Construction material	2.2	1.2
Food based	1.4	0.7

Up to June 15 of current fiscal year, electricity and IT account for 85% of the proposed investments

Accenture cuts forecast, shares slide 17%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Accenture on Thursday lowered the upper end of its fiscal 2026 revenue growth forecast, signalling continued caution in enterprise technology spending despite robust demand for AI, cloud and cybersecurity services. Accenture now expects annual revenue growth of 3% to 4% in local currency, narrowing its earlier guidance of 3% to 5%. Accenture follows a Sept–Aug financial year.

The revised outlook rattled investors, sending shares of the Dublin-headquartered IT services giant down as much as 17% to about $129 in early NYSE trade. The selloff spread across the technology services sector, with Capgemini falling 8.4%, while Infosys and Wipro ADRs declined about 8% and 7%, respectively, as concerns over slowing growth weighed on IT stocks globally.

The weaker outlook overshadowed an otherwise solid third-quarter performance. Revenue for the quarter ended May 31 rose 6% year-on-year to $18.7 billion in US dollar terms, or 3% in local currency. New bookings stood at $19.3 billion, a 2% decrease in dollar terms.

Firm now expects annual revenue growth of 3% to 4% in local currency, narrowing its earlier guidance of 3% to 5%

"Demand for large-scale reinvention remains strong — 104 quarterly client bookings of $100 million or more year-to-date, up 13% — and we are seeing more large-scale AI transformation programs, while executing our strategy to capture new areas of growth," Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet said.

Operating margin expanded 20 basis points to 17%, while diluted earnings per share rose 9% to $3.8. Free cash flow for the quarter stood at $3.6 billion.

For the first nine months of FY26, Accenture generated $55.5 billion in revenue, up 7% in US dollar terms and 4% in local currency. Free cash flow during the period reached $8.8 billion. The company also raised its expected cash returns to shareholders to at least $9.5 billion for the fiscal year. Accenture ended the quarter with 798,739 employees globally, adding more than 12,000 employees sequentially. Headcount was up 1% from a year earlier following a period of workforce optimisation. Employee utilisation remained high at 93%, while annual voluntary attrition stood at 14%.

Managed Services remained Accenture's largest business segment, generating $9.4 billion in quarterly revenue, marginally ahead of Consulting at $9.3 billion. Among industry groups, Products contributed the highest revenue at $5.7 billion, followed by health & public service at $3.8 billion and Financial Services at $3.5 billion.

Direct tax mop-up signals healthy corp growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Pointing to healthy corporate earnings, amid the West Asia conflict, the first instalment of advance tax collections rose 15.3% to Rs 1,54,706 crore. Latest data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday showed that corporation tax saw a 16% increase to Rs 1.4 lakh crore, while personal tax was 12.7% higher at Rs 37,620 crore.

Advance tax collections, which are paid in four installments, are an advance indicator of corporate performance. The numbers also showed that so far this year, gross direct tax collections have increased 12.5% to Rs 6.1 lakh crore, with non-corporation tax rising 12.1% to Rs 3.1 lakh crore, while corporate taxes were 11.3% higher at a little under Rs 2.8 lakh crore.

Securities transaction tax went up nearly 45% to Rs 18,856 crore in the fiscal year up to June 17.

Most indicators, from auto and white goods sales to GST, point to domestic demand sustaining during the first quarter of the financial year, despite the West Asia war impacting certain segments of the economy. While the sectoral direct tax collections data was not immediately available, there will be segments such as oil retailing, where companies would have not paid advance tax, given that they have been incurring losses so far in the year.

The healthy tax numbers, along with proceeds from disinvestment and asset monetisation, will provide comfort to finance ministry mandarins, who are grappling with the impact of higher subsidies, which is likely to push up the fiscal deficit beyond the budgeted 4.3% of GDP for the current financial year.

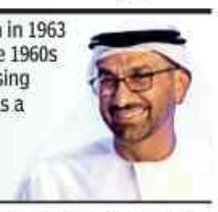
'India to be among our top 5 markets'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Emirates NBD's Rs 26,015 crore purchase of a 60% stake in RBL Bank marks more than the largest banking cross-border deal; it signals how the India-UAE economic relationship is shifting from trade and remittances towards capital and control. The Dubai-based lender now counts India among its five core strategic markets, alongside the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey.

Hesham Abdulla Al Qassim, the bank's vice-chairman and managing director, casts the move as a historical return. When the precursor to Emirates NBD was established in 1963, he noted, it relied heavily on Indian financial linkages. "We started the financial institution in 1963 with the help of State Bank... In the 1960s everyone in the region was desperately using Indian rupees. India in the Middle East was a very important country," he said. Indian enterprise, he added, helped build the Gulf's commercial foundations: "Indian businessmen... have started the whole platform of the economy in every GCC country including the UAE." The acquisition, in his telling, fulfils a long-held ambition "to come back to India to continue our trade and relationship", now backed by sufficient capital to buy a bank outright.

> We started the financial institution in 1963 with the help of State Bank... In the 1960s everyone in the region was desperately using Indian rupees. India in the Middle East was a very important country
>
> **Hesham Abdulla Al Qassim** | VC & MD, EMIRATES NBD



The transaction makes Emirates NBD the promoter of RBL Bank and equips it with a domestic platform in one of the world's fastest-growing banking markets.

For Shayne Nelson, the group's chief executive officer, the logic is straightforward. "As a group, Emirates NBD has identified five core strategic markets that will drive our future growth...the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and of course India," he said, describing India as a uniquely important growth market.

Banking on diaspora

The bet rests not only on macroeconomics but also on demography and diaspora. "There are 4.3 million Indians who call UAE home. They have contributed enormously to our economy, society and our success," Nelson said, noting that roughly a third of the bank's UAE customer base is of Indian origin. Economic ties, he added, are deepening rapidly: "Bilateral trade has already passed $100 billion, making India UAE's third largest trading partner and India the UAE's second largest trading partner."

Infosys bags 3 major deals worth $325m

Bengaluru: Infosys has won three large contracts, valued at a combined $325 million. This bolstered its deal pipeline as enterprises increasingly focus on cost optimisation, vendor consolidation, and AI-led transformation initiatives, **reports Shilpa Phadnis**.

The largest of the three contracts is a deal with Swedish automaker Volvo Cars, estimated to be worth around $170 million, according to industry sources.

Sources said roughly half of the deal comprises net-new business, while the remainder involves consolidation of existing engagements. The scope is understood to include IT infrastructure services, SAP platform modernisation and broader digital transformation initiatives. Emails sent to Infosys and Volvo Cars did not elicit a response till the time of going to press.

Infosys has also won a contract from Valmet, the Finnish engineering and technology company. Industry sources estimate the deal value at around $100 million.

Additionally, the Bengaluru-based firm reportedly secured a $51 million contract from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, one of Hong Kong's largest non-profit organisations and the operator of horse racing and betting activities in the territory.

SBI board okays ₹60k cr fundraise during FY27

Mumbai: State Bank of India's central board on Thursday approved a plan to raise up to Rs 60,000 crore during FY27 through a mix of debt instruments, signalling the lender's intent to tap both domestic and overseas markets amid evolving funding conditions.

The approval, granted at a meeting held on June 18, follows an earlier intimation to exchanges and is subject to govt approvals wherever required. The fundraise will be executed in rupees and/or any other convertible currency through the issuance of instruments including long-term bonds, Basel III-compliant Additional Tier 1 bonds, and Tier 2 bonds. SBI said the capital will be raised via public offers or private placements. TNN

Bangalore Times

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CONTRAPUNTO

There is nothing more likely to start disagreement among people or countries than an agreement

– EB WHITE

Tehran Dividend

Once Iran is out of US's bad books, India shouldn't waste opportunities to invest in, and trade with, it

People look for omens in hard times. That US and Iran signed their MoU for peace two days early – Wednesday rather than Friday – seems like one. Does it mean peace is inevitable? One hopes so, but with Trump saying, "We're going to bomb the hell out of them if they violate the agreement," bets may prove premature. Besides, Trump's warning defies the MoU's first point: "To refrain from the *threat* or use of force against each other." There are other triggers – Israel's strikes on Lebanon, for example – that could derail a deal. But for the moment, at least, peace has a chance, and India should plan ahead for opportunities in a rehabilitated Iran.

Despite decades of sanctions, Iran is not poor – its per capita GDP in 2024 was roughly double India's. It's also large and populous, and has ancient cultural ties with us. Yet, even before the war, our exchange with it had dwindled. Our main export, rice, was down to $698mn, from $1.2bn in 2018. As for our imports, we had completely stopped buying oil and gas from Iran in 2019, under threat of US sanctions. But, before that, Iran used to be among our top three energy suppliers. Now that the MoU promises to lift sanctions on Iranian oil and gas, we should resume imports. There's a cost advantage in this, as Iran is our closest Gulf neighbour. But there's also a strategic benefit. If Hormuz is ever closed again, Iranian energy can continue flowing to India via the southeastern port of Chabahar.

India proposed to develop Chabahar in 2003, as its gateway to Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Russia, bypassing Pakistan, but has been stymied for various reasons. We should see the project through this time, and aim to be part of the $300bn reconstruction and development plan for Iran, mentioned in the MoU. Beyond that, Iran's under-funded hydrocarbon sector is an opportunity. We need oil and gas – Iran has the third and second largest reserves, respectively. What it lacks is infra to extract them. Saudi can produce 12mn barrels of oil per day, Iran's capacity is just 3.7mbpd. Indian PSUs had discovered its Farzad-B gas field in 2008, and were expected to develop it, but that opportunity slipped away. Now, India must pursue its interests with greater determination. But only after the US-Iran deal is done and dusted, hopefully by Aug.

118 Celebrated Like No. 1

Read the global university rankings in toto: India is walking forward while others are sprinting

Sometimes, in India, we celebrate without much sense of proportion. Cheering an IIT for getting ranked 118 in the QS World University Rankings 2027, and some other Indian universities also moving up, definitely has frog-in-the-well feel. It's like saying *chalo pass ho gaya*, for a middling exam performance in the most cut-throat jobs era in history. For the individual child, this, we agree, is 100% the right attitude. Gently encouraging, not putting too much pressure. But national higher education warrants a completely different kind of accountability. Tough, analytical, benchmarked to the best. And there, what's unmissable is that University of Hong Kong is ranked 11, and Peking University 13.

Big picture's the same across different rankings. Yes, India's representation's rising. But China's universities have pushed into the global elite. Indeed, Western unis are growing worried about how they're becoming less attractive to Chinese students, and the billions they bring. Nor is China the only uncomfortable comparison. Per QS data released in March, tiny Singapore has TWO universities in the top 10 for engineering and tech.

University rankings serve as a rough proxy for a country's ability to generate new knowledge. China's share in Nature Index, which tracks high-quality academic journals, is now more than US's, and 21 times India's. If we consider the AI research landscape in particular, yes, India's contributions have risen substantially. But China's have made a dramatic ascent, expanding in global share from under 5% in 2000 to a completely dominant 36% by 2025. Chinese universities have leapfrogged on the back of governance structures that enable liberal international hires, quick research initiative launches, building capacities at speed. Simultaneously, its private sector's created enormous demand for advanced research, pulling unis into a virtuous cycle of innovation and investment. Sure, India's also made progress. But people don't usually catch up with the competition by congratulating themselves. They do it by becoming more ambitious, more demanding, more willing to learn from those who have raced ahead. Working harder, smarter.

Borrowed Britain

Everything in the country has been taken from somewhere else

Jug Suraiya

On the day I arrived in London in the last week of May, the temperature was 34°C and felt ten degrees hotter. I wish it would cool down, I said, mopping sweat. London obliged with a vengeance. The temperature dropped from 18°C to a bone-numbing 16°C.

Britain does that. Like a chameleon changing its colour, Britain changes its weather, from tropical heat to tundra cold.

This is because the island nation doesn't have a climate of its own but borrows it from elsewhere. It borrows its increasingly frequent heatwaves from furnace blasts via Africa, and its cold from Arctic winds and sea currents.

Climate is not the only thing Britain has borrowed. Over the millennia, Britain, long before it became Britain, largely borrowed its population from the Nordic and Germanic tribes, like the Angles, which gave England its name, derived from Angle Land.

More recently, Britain has borrowed its population from Bangladesh, and Pakistan, and India, and China, and Jamaica, and a dozen different places.

jugular*vein*

The result is that what Britain eats is also largely borrowed from foreign climes, with chicken tikka masala, of alleged Indian provenance, long being rated as the national dish.

If what Britain puts into its mouth is mainly imported from elsewhere, so is what it puts out of its mouth in the form of speech, with the so-called King's English being drowned out in a medley of Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Chinese, and so on and so fourth, fifth, sixth, and more.

As if all this borrowing were not enough, the entire wealth of Britain has also been borrowed from its former colonies and, owing to a fit of national absent-mindedness, has never been returned.

From India alone, in 200 years of colonial rule, Britain took out more than $45tn, per foreign minister S Jaishankar. Could India have it back, please? Britain can keep the Kohinoor.

What US-Iran Deal Taught The World

Only powerful actors can stop conflicts, good-hearted neutral mediators are passé. Peace comes when an involved party has the capacity to pressure, persuade, reassure, and set the terms of engagement

Syed Akbaruddin

Ahead of Washington-Tehran talks, expected later today at Bürgenstock mountaintop resort in Switzerland, and looking back at the run-up to the US-Iran ceasefire, signed Wednesday, what's evident is that mediators in modern crises do not arrive with olive branches.

They arrive with secure lines, intelligence contacts, military links, a discreet venue, and enough influence to get adversaries talking without either side feeling trapped.

The US-Iran memorandum captures the shift. It is not a grand settlement but a tentative understanding, opening a 60-day negotiation window, shaped through multiple channels and crowded with unresolved questions. What happens to Iran's highly enriched uranium, the issue presented as central to the war? How much of Iran's frozen assets will be released? What if forces outside the understanding break the ceasefire? This framework is one strand of a wider crisis linking nuclear talks, sanctions, Gulf shipping and Lebanon's contested truce.

Crisis diplomacy often begins not with agreement, but with a fragile draft, a usable channel and enough ambiguity for adversaries to step back. In such settings, the intermediary that matters most is rarely the one that appears most neutral.

The older mediator drew authority from a distance. Today's intermediary earns relevance by doing what others cannot. It may reach the parties, protect a backchannel, apply pressure, offer reassurance, provide a venue, or keep a fragile deal alive. Mediation is no longer one task performed by one neutral actor. It is divided among channels, hosts, facilitators and guarantors.

International organisations remain, but their authority has waned. The age when figures like ElBaradei could combine technical credibility with institutional weight feels distant now.

Pakistan's role in the US-Iran understanding is instructive. It shows both the limits and uses of today's mediation. Islamabad did not deliver the agreement, but kept a line open when formal diplomacy was constrained. Keeping a channel open is not the same as engineering an agreement. Pakistan is no neutral Switzerland. Islamabad's choices are shaped by Gulf dependence, Chinese backing and its border with Iran. Those very ties made it useful in keeping contact alive. It hosted quietly, passed messages and drew on security links beyond formal diplomacy. That did not make Islamabad a grand peacemaker. It made Pakistan useful in diplomacy's early work.

Not all intermediaries do the same job. One country may provide the room, another may keep contact alive, a third may narrow differences, and a fourth may help sustain what has been agreed. Sometimes the task is simply damage control. In West Asia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have performed parts of this chain. The old image of one neutral mediator doing everything now feels closer to folklore than to practice.

Image: AI

China works this terrain from just outside the room. Beijing often prefers to shape negotiations rather than own the process. In the West Asian crisis, Beijing's ties with Tehran gave Islamabad's channel added weight. Pakistan kept the channel open. China gave it ballast.

US is the awkward case for anyone still attached to neutral mediation. In Gaza, Lebanon and Ukraine, Washington has not mediated from above the conflict but from inside it, using resources, security commitments and bargaining weight others lack. Washington has been central to ceasefire and border diplomacy between Israel and Lebanon even as the situation remains fragile and contested. In Gaza, its role has stretched beyond ceasefire mechanics into the architecture of what follows, from disarmament and humanitarian access to reconstruction and governance. In Ukraine, Washington's role as security backer makes it part of the negotiation, not an observer of it.

In modern crisis diplomacy, leverage can matter more than detachment. This is not neutral facilitation. It is power mediation, agenda setting backed by the ability to pressure and reassure.

Türkiye's value lies in a different kind of proximity. Ankara matters because it sits inside the theatre, across routes and rival camps, not because it floats above the fray. Access, trade, military relevance and cultivated ambiguity have all become forms of diplomatic capital. The Black Sea Grain Initiative showed this at scale. Istanbul turned geography, UN-backed inspections and wartime logistics into a working diplomatic arrangement.

What remains of the old European model, the Norway-style mediator, once treated as the gold standard? Its role has narrowed. Neutral facilitators still matter in quiet channels, humanitarian arrangements and implementation. Wars move fast. Belligerents want leverage on the table, not just virtue in the room. Neutral facilitation has not vanished. It survives as a specialised role rather than as the main model of crisis diplomacy.

Where does India fit in this new diplomacy? It brings broad relationships across West Asia, strategic autonomy, operational competence, and a tested record in evacuations and humanitarian coordination. These strengths do not make India a universal mediator or the natural intermediary in every crisis. They do give it a credible role in keeping channels open, supporting de-escalation, and acting as a stabilising presence across divides. In crisis diplomacy, that is a serious, if limited, form of influence.

Mediation has become less about innocence and more about capability. The question is no longer who is neutral enough to stand in the middle. It is who has access, who can protect a backchannel, who can apply pressure without closing the door, who can reassure without taking ownership, and who can help adversaries retreat without making it look like surrender.

The mediators who matter will not always look disinterested. More often, they will be states with interests, leverage and a spare key to the room. That may offend the old etiquette of diplomacy. It is how diplomacy now gets done.

The writer is a former permanent representative of India to UN

How To Tell Your Spouse They're Doing Intimacy Wrong

Lack of desire isn't the real crisis in modern marriage. It's the inability to talk about desire. But, there are quiet ways to ask for what makes you feel good, and point out which touch leaves you feeling lonely

Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi

Before he wrote his Booker-nominated *Animal's People*, my friend Indra Sinha penned a smart translation of *Kama Sutra*, where his great corrective was that it was not merely a manual of ecstasy – as Sir Richard Burton might have you believe – but a text about how to live with other people: a spouse, a bossy cook, and, most heroically, even a mother-in-law.

Today, one of our unsaid things is not that married people fail to have sex, or have it badly. Rather, it is how two people spend years in the same bed, without finding the sentence that could save them from becoming strangers to each other.

Kama Sutra knew this. So, a generation of Indians long before us had an erotic language, or codes of intimacy, far more sophisticated than we know today (gleaned mostly from self-help manuals and reels). *Kama Sutra* helped to subtext all the awkward, beautiful things that compose life – its many topics include how to end a quarrel, or exit an affair without tamasha.

But Victorian morality under British rule, later absorbed by Indian reform movements and post-Independence nationalism, created a genuine erasure: a civilisation that once carved lovers onto temple walls spent decades blurring kisses out of films. Silence arrived at the party dressed up as good old-fashioned decency. But silence, it turns out, is hardly neutral.

A friend recently told me her husband was loving and literate, devoted to their marriage but also a sexual failure. She had married one of the most decent men in all of north India – a rare and diminishing gene pool. Only to discover that his libido was not lacking, but expressed as a series of erotic misjudgements.

Briefly, as she spoke, I wondered when our friendship had devolved into an episode of *Sex and the City*, but rescue came when she began to cry. In her sobbing I heard neither anger nor frustration but sincere, profound sorrow. How, after all, can you leave someone because they are sexually incompetent? And equally, how do you stay? "I wish there was a school," she said, "where sexual skills might be certifiable prior to marriage."

John Updike spent several novels – *Couples* chief among them – examining this: a community of Massachusetts marriages where sexual restlessness is the symptom, and the disease is an inability to say, in plain words, *this isn't working, and I don't know how to tell you*. Updike's couples solve the issue by having affairs instead of conversations. The New York solution is generally too much talk, or sudden flight.

Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach* is the more compressed, British version of the same idea – one catastrophic wedding night, and a marriage that ends before it begins. Suppression as a coping mechanism.

Both novelists nurse the idea that a marriage that cannot speak about desire, begins to lose desire. In one study of divorced couples, 75% cited lack of commitment, nearly 60% cited infidelity, and nearly 58% cited too much conflict or arguing. A study in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine* found that while sexual frequency and sexual communication both predicted sexual satisfaction, only sexual communication predicted relationship satisfaction.

In other words, the problem is not only how often a couple rents a room by the hour, it is whether they can speak about the sex they wish they were having.

Few people walk into a lawyer's office and announce, "I'm leaving because I have not been touched with tenderness in ten years." They cite incompatibility, conflict, and lack of commitment. These are not lies, but discreet translations: the body converts disappointment into administrative buyout clauses. But how would my friend tell her entirely loving husband he was "lousy in the sack", as she had confided in me, without dismantling the fragile intimacy of their marriage?

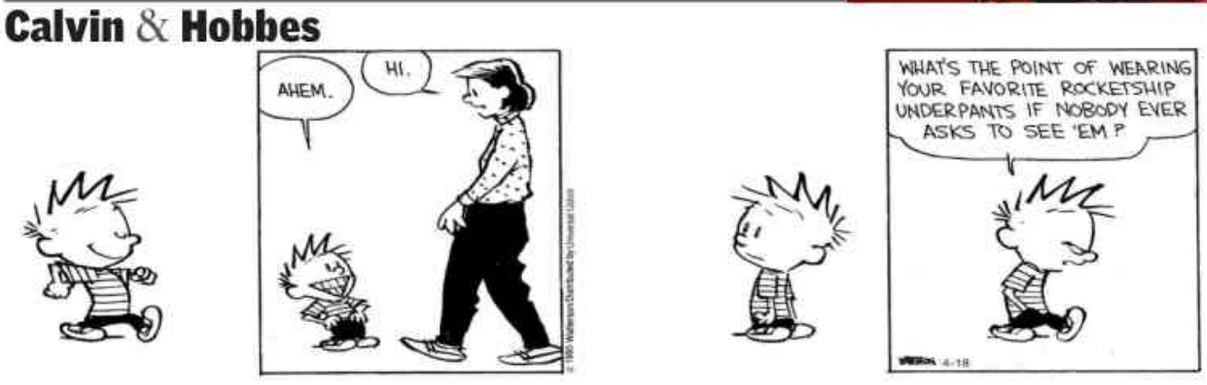
Of course there's couples therapy, but replacing the language of tenderness with a language of medicine is a tedious exit, although it often works. Yet, "talking about it" is largely an American faith: the conviction that the self must be excavated and then narrated. In India we do not always say "I am lonely" or "I feel unseen." We sulk, withdraw, serve sugarless tea, sleep back-to-back, forget anniversaries. The real question is not if we adopt the language of therapy, but how it translates in a culture that has long chosen implication over declaration.

THE GREAT UNSPOKEN
Conversations we need to have

Psychotherapist Esther Perel's remarkable contribution is to notice that modern marriage asks two opposing things of the same person: *make me safe, and make me weak in the knees*. Emily Nagoski, writing from the science of sexuality, believes lasting erotic connection is not the mythical "spark". But a practice of trust, attention, and pleasure purposefully chosen.

Long before these scholars showed up, *Kama Sutra* understood that civilisation is not proven by how much desire it permits, but by how it teaches desire to speak. Perhaps the work relies on one honest sentence: *this is how your touch makes me feel lonely*. This sentence may not repair everything, but it might be a place from where repair begins.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

And in the case of superior things like stars, we discover a kind of unity in separation. The higher we rise on the scale of being, the easier it is to discern a connection even among things separated by vast distances.

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

The World, World Cup & Brotherhood Of The Ball

Indrajit Hazra

The World Cup is a shimmering, paradoxical beast. Following the tournament is not unlike seeing Earth from space as a 'pale blue dot' – except here, it's in the form of a glorious football. And yet, it's a palpable celebration of one of the most powerful human inventions: country.

48 of these club-countries in the latest edition – ranging from tiny island nations of Cape Verde and Curaçao to ones you don't have to Google search like Iran and US – take physical form in this giant riot of humans cosplaying nations. Along with the Beautiful Game, you experience the thrill of what you experienced as a kid when you'd collect stamps from 'exotic' countries. Each team on the pitch, and the hordes cheering them from the stands and in front of screens, become a manifestation of 'their country', all contesting jigsaw pieces in a planet-sized puzzle.

Not too long ago, we were all under the happy, exciting thrall of globalisation, a capitalism-infused Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Some 20 years ago, Thomas Friedman articulated what we felt: the world is flat, a level playing field where countries, organisations, individuals competed against each other in a global field keeping scores. Today, we live in an even more globalised world – of the internet, streaming entertainment, instant communication, social media, global supply chains that go beyond products and services…And yet today, pushback to globe-isation has never been stronger. The notion of nation being solidified by protectionism and xenophobia is not only being tolerated but embraced.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Which is why in the face of such growing anti-globalisation – evident in anti-immigrant sentiment, great walls of tariffs, identities based on threat perceptions from anything and anyone not in 'one's own image' – the World Cup is such a powerful anomaly. Its genius doesn't lie in dismissing the astounding variety that nations contain, but in celebrating it through footballing jousts.

And the World Cup is a beautiful paradox – football-playing nations competing against each other for sporting glory only to drive home the point that the world is one singular play-ground.

When spectators roared with delight at Messi's third goal against Algeria on Thursday; or were in sheer awe of Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha single-handedly (with two gloved hands) holding back tournament favourites Spain from breaching the post on Monday; or revelled in Japan's kendo-style performance against legacy side Netherlands the same day, their countrymen and women *felt* the full force of *belonging* that the socially-constructed 'nation' can provide.

But at the same time, everyone watching the World Cup – regardless of which 'nation-club' they belong to, or even if their country isn't playing – are mystically swayed by a spectre of trans-national comradeship that is in scarce supply outside the football fields where goalposts are being constantly changed.

The bonhomie among players from different countries, the mutual respect, the sheer joy of finding kindred spirits, no matter the colour of jerseys or relations between govts, provide a profound contrast to the fragmented, fractured, and fenced-off world that lies 'outside'.

After Germany's 7-1 trouncing of minnows Curaçao last Sunday, we witnessed a strange gathering. Joining a post-match prayer circle of Curaçao players on the pitch were German midfielder Felix Nmecha and centre-back Jonathan Tah. As Nmecha later revealed when asked about it, 'In the game we are opponents. But after the game we are all Christians, we are all brothers.'

This brotherhood of football is something to behold. The world outside the World Cup could try and regale in it.

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What is the Great Nicobar remake — and what's at stake?

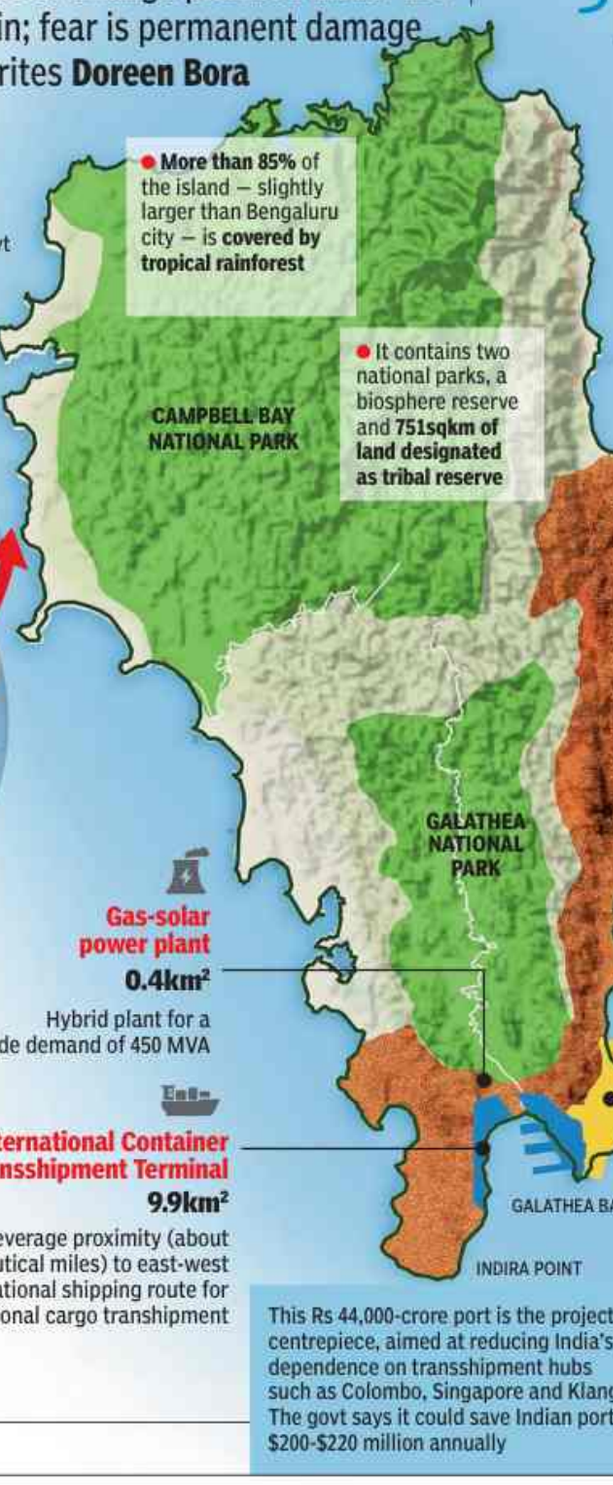
TOI Explains Should an island of 9,000-odd people become a city of 6.5 lakh? That is the scale of change planned under the project. Promise is strategic and economic gain; fear is permanent damage to its ecology and indigenous communities, writes **Doreen Bora**

18% or **166sqkm** of Great Nicobar's **910sqkm** area is earmarked for the project

~85% of the island's population are settlers per 2011 Census. Of the total, there are just **237 members of the Shompen tribe** and **1,094 Nicobarese**

6.5 lakh people will inhabit the island by 2050, per govt estimates

- Nearly 1,600km from mainland India, **Great Nicobar is the country's southernmost island** and home to Indira Point, its southernmost tip


More than 85% of the island — slightly larger than Bengaluru city — is covered by tropical rainforest
It contains two national parks, a biosphere reserve and 751sqkm of land designated as tribal reserve
CAMPBELL BAY NATIONAL PARK
GALATHEA NATIONAL PARK
CAMPBELL BAY
GALATHEA BAY
INDIRA POINT
Gas-solar power plant
0.4km²
Hybrid plant for a city-wide demand of 450 MVA
International Container Transshipment Terminal
9.9km²
To leverage proximity (about 40 nautical miles) to east-west international shipping route for regional cargo transhipment
Township
149.6km²
Designed as a 'city in the forest' with compact, walkable urban centres
Greenfield International Airport
10.4km²
To handle up to 1 crore passengers annually at full capacity
This Rs 44,000-crore port is the project's centrepiece, aimed at reducing India's dependence on transshipment hubs such as Colombo, Singapore and Klang. The govt says it could save Indian ports $200-$220 million annually

1 IT ENJOYS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

- Great Nicobar sits near the Six Degree Channel, close to the **Strait of Malacca** — one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints, linking the Indian Ocean and the Pacific
- Nearly **a third of global traded goods** and close to 30% of seaborne oil move through this route

2 IT'S NOT EASY TO GET THERE

Getting to Great Nicobar involves flying to Port Blair and taking a helicopter to INS Baaz (naval air station) at Campbell Bay, or making a multi-day ship journey. Visitors need permits (including for tribal areas), identity proof, govt sponsorship and a character certificate from a gazetted officer. Foreigners need home ministry clearance

1,623km to Chennai port (nearest mainland)

520km from Port Blair, Andaman

144km to Sumatra Island, Indonesia

3 GOVT'S LINED UP A MEGA PROJECT

In 2021, the govt launched the **Great Nicobar Holistic Development Project** to build on the island's strategic location. It says a stronger presence here will allow it to monitor shipping and naval activity in the eastern Indian Ocean and enhance India's role in the Indo-Pacific, especially amid China's expanding naval footprint

₹81,000 Cr
Total cost of the project that has four components and covers 16,610 hectares of Great Nicobar

To be developed in 3 phases

Ph I	2025-35	72.1km²
Ph II	2036-41	45.3km²
Ph III	2042-47	48.7km²

4 IT'LL CAUSE 7,000% POPULATION SURGE...

- Apart from the tribals, the island is also home to settlers, many of them ex-servicemen and their families who were moved here by the govt in the 1970s
- It's population is projected to increase to **6.5 lakh** by 2050 — nearly 78 times the 2011 population, according to the Feasiblity Report prepared for Niti Aayog

...AND CREATE A NEW ECONOMY

2.6 lakh jobs are expected by 2050 across logistics, tourism, aviation, exports and urban services. Tourism alone could generate around 1 lakh jobs, with population growth creating opportunities in education and healthcare. The current economy is small and subsistence-based

TOURIST FLOW WILL GO UP, TOO

9.8 lakh visitors are expected annually. Critics fear increased tourism and migration could lead to contact with the isolated Shompen tribe, risking disease and social disruption. While some experts have warned of severe consequences for the tribe, the govt says safeguards are in place and the project will not disturb or displace them

5 FEARS OVER MANGROVE, MARINE LIFE

130.8km²
Forest land, including around 84.1sqkm within the Great Nicobar Tribal Reserve, will need to be diverted for the infrastructure projects

227ha
To be reclaimed for the port, possibly affecting coral reefs or turtle nesting sites

- Environmental groups fear the project could also harm forests, mangroves, and other elements of the coastal ecosystem
- Great Nicobar is part of the Sundaland Biodiversity Hotspot and is home to rare species such as the Nicobar pigeon, the closest living relative of the extinct dodo. **Galathea Bay is also a key nesting site for leatherback turtles**, the world's largest sea turtle
- It lies in a highly seismic zone and was severely affected by the 2004 earthquake and tsunami. Authorities say a disaster risk assessment and management plan has been prepared, but critics remain unconvinced that such a large development can be insulated from natural hazards

6 WHAT NGT HAS SAID

The National Green Tribunal declined to intervene, citing the project's strategic importance. It held that the project did not violate the Island Coastal Regulation Zone notification and that no significant coral reefs fall within the actual construction area in Galathea Bay. It noted that coral colonies likely to be affected would be relocated under scientific supervision. The legal battle is not over, however: the Port Blair bench of Calcutta high court is hearing petitions questioning compliance with the Forest Rights Act and safeguards for indigenous communities

To compensate for the felling of 7.1 lakh trees, 97.3sq km of land in Haryana has been earmarked for afforestation

Sources: Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island, Pre-Feasibility Report; media reports

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders for supply the following Materials as per the tender specification through KPP Portal:

Sl. No.	Enquiry/ Indent No.	Name of the Tender	Bid Documents available on or after	Last date for submission of Bids	Opening of Bid Document
1.	BESCOM/ 2026-27/ IND0270	Supply of 1.1 KV Class HR (Heat Resistant) PVC Insulated & Unsheathed Aluminium Wires Multistrand Single Core 150 Sqmm size Lead wire-1500 coils.	19.06.2026	18.07.2026 17:15 Hrs	20.07.2026 11:00 Hrs
2.	BESCOM/ 2026-27/ IND0245/ CALL-2	8 SWG G.I Wire-300 MT.	19.06.2026	03.07.2026 17:00 Hrs	04.07.2026 17.15 Hrs

The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal web-site **https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP Portal help desk contact numbers: **91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-Chief General Manager(Ele.), Procurement, Corporate office, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_856061_1 PAC: Rs. Rs.1,94,85,802/-
Last Date: 10.07.2026 03.00 pm

O/o the Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Thrissur.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_855806_1 PAC:Rs. Rs.1,79,98,760/-
Last Date: 29.06.2026 03.00 pm

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer,Transmission circle, Malappuram.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_847561_2 PAC:Rs. Rs.5,50,13,345/-
Last Date: 06.07.2026 03.00 pm

Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in** Ref : PR/MC1/E619-E-tender/2026

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
International Airport, Mumbai
1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR GA/FBO CONCESSION AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited (**"MIAL"**) invites reputed parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for undertaking General Aviation/Fixed Base Operations Concession at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (**"CSMIA"**), Mumbai.
The parties can participate by submitting required documents and the requisite fee as specified in the Tender Notice available on following link: **https://csmia-mumbai.adaniairports.com/en/business/tenders**
Upon payment of prescribed fee and submission of requisite documents, the interested parties shall be provided with access to the tender documents containing qualification criteria and terms. Please check the above link for last date and time for submission of application.
Note: MIAL reserves the right to cancel tender process at any time without prior notice or without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.02, VC Division, Maddur-571428. Mandya Dist Ph:08231-200282

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-03/2026-27
Dated : 16.06.2026

This office's Short term tender Notification No.03/ 2026-27, Dated: 16.06.2026 for a 2 No. of Works (Minimum Estimated Cost Rs.12.70 lakhs & Max. Estimated Cost Rs.411.28 lakhs) tender is invited from eligible contractors from KPWD. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal, E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through on-line : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land-line number 08231-200282 during office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd, No.02, VC Division, Maddur.

IndianOil
CIN – L23201MH1959GOI011388

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Indian Oil Corporation Limited invites EOI for partnering in customer-oriented facilities (Non-Fuel Retail) at IndianOil Fuel Stations across India.
Interested parties may refer to the EOI document IOCL/HO/RS/NFR/EOI/01/2026 available on the IndianOil website **www.iocl.com/suppliers-notices** for more details. Last date for submission of response is **08.07.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.**

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Employment Notice No. 01/SPQ/2026-27

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up 01 posts of Level- 4/5 (Grade Pay-2400/2800), 07 posts of Level-2 (Grade Pay- 1900/-) and 15 post of Level-1(Grade Pay-1800/-) against Sports Quota of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (Punjab) for the year 2026-27. The last date for calling applications is 14.07.2026 at 17:00 hrs.
Other details in this regard are available on RCF's website i.e. https://rcf.indianrailways.gov.in in staff corner (Recruitment).

General Manager (P)
R.O. No. 31-M/2026-27 Dated: 18.06.2026

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
6th, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 185/TD/2026 Dated: 17.6.2026

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 (the Act)

An application for the grant of a Category-I licence for inter-State trading in electricity across India has been made before the Commission by **REMC Limited**, 8th Floor, 7, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-10066.

2. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State trading licence to **REMC Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the website https://www.remcltd.com or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
3. On consideration of the material available on record, the Commission is satisfied that *prima facie* the applicant qualifies for the grant of a licence for inter-State trading in electricity and by order dated 17.6.2026, the Commission has proposed to grant a Category-I licence to the applicant for inter-State trading in electricity across India.
4. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act to invite suggestions or objections, if any, to the proposal to grant the licence for inter-State trading in electricity as aforesaid by the Commission to be received by the undersigned latest by **4.7.2026** at the above noted address. The objections or suggestions received after the specified date shall not be considered.
5. The Commission has fixed the application for final disposal on **7.7.2026** and the person who files the suggestions or objections may in his discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,
Office of the Commissioner, Pashupalana Bhavan, Ballari Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24
Email : pdkldabangalore@gmail.com **Ph:** 080-29533854

No: CAH/PDKLDA/LIV.INS/TENDER/2026-27 Dated: 18-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government Of Karnataka, Bangalore, hereby invites Short term Tender through Website: **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** KPP Portal from eligible tenderers for Carrying out Livestock Insurance in Karnataka State for the year 2026-27. Approximate Tendered Amount is **Rs.240.00 Lakhs.**
Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting KPP Portal website from date:**18-06-2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP Portal from dt:**18-06-2026 to Dt:02-07-2026 till 5.30p.m.**
Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Veterinary Officer (KLDA), &
Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee,
Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,
DIPR/CP/1158/NR/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division 8th Main, 2nd block Jayanagar, Kanakanapalya, Bangalore-560011

Tender Notification NO.EE/CKP/E-PROC/02/2026-27 Date: 17.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Chickpete Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Comprehensive Development of roads drains RCC major culverts Stormwater drains, bridges RCC drain asphalting and Concreting bad reaches in VV Puram Sub division at Chickpet Constituency. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 300.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-procurement & Rs. 3,50,000/-through BG.**
2.	Comprehensive Development of parks playgrounds and buildings by providing pathways ornamental grill lighting works play equipments gym equipment tensile membrance and other balance works to parks palygrounds and buildings in Chickpet Assembly constituency. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 300.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-procurement & Rs. 3,50,000/- through BG.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **20.06.2026 at 15.00** in the Chief Engineer Zone-2, Bengaluru City Central Palilee, Annexure-3, 46th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N R Square, Bengaluru. **(2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **24.06.2026 up to 16.00. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **25.06.2026 by 16.30 (4)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BCCC

KARNATAKA THANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Banjara Bhavan, No. 03, 16k, 1st Floor, MillerTank Bund Road, (Thimmaiah Road), Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-52, Tel:080-22285561, 62, 63, 65.
E-mail:ktdclit@gmail.com, website: www.banjarathanda.kar.nic.in

No.: KTDCL/EST/C.R/2025-26 Date:15.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation Limited (KTDCL) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) / quotations from eligible Practicing Company Secretaries (PCS) / Company Secretary Firms for **Appointment as Company Secretary Consultant on a retainership basis for a period of one year from 06.07.2026 to 30.06.2027.** Details can be obtained from this office and KTDCL website **https://banjarathanda.karnataka.gov.in** For further details, please contact Accounts Officer, KTDCL, Banjara Bhavan, No. 03, 16k, 1st Floor, Miller Tank bund Road, (Thimmaiah Road), Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-52, Telephone: 080-22285561, 62, 63, 65.
Interested eligible PCS / Firms shall submit their sealed quotation **on or before 30.06.2026 at 4.00 PM** to the above mentioned office address.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/1220/2026-27

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
B-Smile
Office of the Project Engineer-01,
No. 30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanthnagara, Bengaluru - 560051.

No: B-SMILE/PE-01/TEND/07/2026-27 Date: 18-06-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (SHORT TERM) - (2nd CALL)
(Competitive Bidding under KW-4 Two Cover System)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Development of Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global Standards. **Package-1: Silk Board Junction to Iblur Junction. (Length 5.44 Km) - (2nd Call) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Crores): 81.67 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 82.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment and Balance Rs. 81.00 Lakhs through Surety Bond / E-BG)**
2	Comprehensive Development of Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global Standards. **Package-2: Iblur Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station. (Length 11.57 Km) - (2nd Call) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Crores): 184.49 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 184.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment and Balance Rs. 183.50 Lakhs through Surety Bond / E-BG)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19-06-2026, 17.30 Hours. 2)** Date & Time for Submission of Pre Bid Queries: **24-06-2026 upto 13.00 Hours. 3)** Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting: **25-06-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Director (Tech), B-SMILE, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **08-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **09-07-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be Notified.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Project Engineer-01, B-SMILE, GBA.

Bangalore Times

EXTRAS

Tanishka (left) and BR Gaurav

Tanishka claims double

Tanishka Kalabhairav clinched a double at the State ranking table tennis tournament in Mysuru on Thursday. In both the women's and U-19 title rounds, the paddler from Belagavi got the better of Himanshi Chowdhary. In the women's final, Tanishka, who was 1-2 down, fought back for an 11-5, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-7 victory. She won the U-19 trophy with an 11-8, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 13-11 scoreline. BR Gaurav defeated Shubham Trivedi 11-9, 6-11,11-2, 11-7, 11-9 for the boys U-19 crown.

Results: Women: Final: Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Himanshi Chowdhary 11-5, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-7; **Semis:** Tanishka bt Hiya Singh 11-3, 11-5, 11-4,13-11; Himanshi bt Trupti Purohit 10-12, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7 **Girls: U-19: Final:** Tanishka bt Himanshi 11-8, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 13-11; **Semis:** Tanishka bt Raashi Rao 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 11-3; Himanshi bt Hiya 19-17, 9-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-4. **Boys: U-19: Final:** BR Gaurav bt Shubham Trivedi 11-9, 6-11,11-2, 11-7, 11-9. **Semis:** Shubham bt Atharva Nawarange 11-13, 7-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-7; Gaurav bt Siddhanth M 7-11, 11-9, 14-12, 11-9.

Vyshak named Warriors' captain: The Mysore Warriors on Thursday named pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar as the captain for the Maharaja Trophy which gets underway in Mysuru on Saturday. Meanwhile, Hubli Tigers have picked young all-rounder Anneshwar Gautam to lead the squad.

Rishanth, Chetan score hat-tricks: Rishanth and Chetan S netted hat-tricks as Bangalore Mars FC defeated Bangalore Boys FC 7-0 in a BDFA 'C' Division league match in Bengaluru on Thursday. **Results: Gp 10:** Bangalore Mars FC 7 (Rishanth S, 41, 57; Chetan S 10, 19, 27; Melwin Raj 50) bt Bangalore Boys FC 2 (Pau Zasing 11, 58); Tilak Memorial FC 1 (Kiran M 54) drew with Jupiter FC 1 (Prateek Baliga B 31); **Gp 11:** IISc FC 5 (Sandeep Shai 6-pen, Lalrempuia Hmar 14, 43; Wangshitem Jen Ozulum 37; Robin Francis 50) bt Bangalore Youngsters FC 1 (Mohammed Sajil 16); BHEL (EDN) FC bt C2 FC (w/o); **Gp 12:** Jolly Bros FC 2 (Abdul Hameed 10, Harshith M 46) bt Bagalkunte FC 0; Sarvagna Nagar FC 1 (Chandru K 35) bt Sunesa FC 0; **Gp 9:** New Lucky Star FC 4 (Sateesh Somasundaram 13, 23; Nijin Thamppan 22, Bangei C 49) bt La Masia FC 0.

'SMRITI KEEPS ME CALM'

All-Round Shafali Converts Promise Into Performance

Chitrangada.C@timesofindia.com

For over six years, **Shafali Verma** has been one of the most intriguing figures in Indian women's cricket. Few players have altered a match's mood as dramatically as she can in the first few overs. Yet, ever since announcing herself as the brightest young star of India's run to the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup final, her career has often felt like a tale of unrealised promise.

The fearless 22-year-old, who once bullied the world's best bowlers, gradually found herself

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

trapped by inconsistency. The explosive starts remained, but the fuller innings became increasingly rare.

That is why the sight of Shafali hitting early boundaries against the Netherlands carried mixed emotions. It was vintage Shafali, but also a reminder of innings where the fireworks ended before they truly began. This time, however, the story was different.

At Headingley on Wednesday, there was power, certainly, but there was also patience. Alongside Smriti Mandhana, Shafali stitched together a century opening stand. Her 38-ball 55 mattered less for the

AFP

runs than for the breakthrough it represented. Seventeen innings after making her T20 World Cup debut as a 16-year-old, Shafali finally brought up her maiden half-century at the tournament.

After India's 95-run win, Shafali said Smriti guided her throughout the partnership. "She is very mature. I feel like hitting six on every delivery, but she is the one who always tells me to stay calm, you will get the loose ball, but you have to play along the ground. She keeps me calm. Today she made me understand every ball," Shafali said.

The opener said the pair had spoken extensively after failing to impress during the England series. "During the England series, we didn't get going. We talked a lot. It's good that before the big games we have put up a good stand."

"She has the best seat to tell me what I am doing wrong or right. And even I have the best seat to tell her which bowler I can take on. We have played together for many years, so we know who should take strike when a bowler comes," Shafali stated.

India will need that version of Shafali as the tournament enters a tougher phase. When Smriti and Shafali fire together, the pair's success often mirrors the team's fortunes. What made Wednesday even more encouraging was Shafali's contribution with the ball. Her three-wicket spell earned praise from captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who said: "She keeps giving us breakthroughs and she can go on to be a great all-rounder."

SOUTH AFRICA EDGE PAST PAK

Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana's all-round show (55 n.o & 3/16) went in vain as South Africa pipped then by two wickets on Wednesday night. **Brief scores: Pakistan: 126/9 in 20 overs** (Fatima Sana 55 n.o; Marizanne Kapp 3-23) **lost to South Africa: 127/8 in 16.5 overs (**Annerie Dercksen 52, Nadine de Klerk 37; Sadia Iqbal 2-26, Fatima 3.16)

Dhinidhi rewrites record; Shoan wins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

NATIONAL AQUATICS

Bengaluru: Karnataka swimmers continued to make a splash at the Senior National Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad. On Day 3 of the competition, the defending champions added eight medals to their tally, including two gold, three silver and three bronze.

Leading Karnataka's charge on the day was teen talent Dhinidhi Desinghu, who bettered her own record in the 100m freestyle.

The 16-year-old came home in 56.57 seconds, eclipsing the previous time of 56.78s, which she clocked at the Nationals in Bhubaneshwar last year. But the Paris Olympian was shocked in the 400 metres freestyle. In a photo finish, Maharashtra's Aditi Hegde (4:25.31) pipped Dhinidhi (4:25.76) to take the top spot.

Karnataka's other gold of the day came from Shoan Ganguly, who won to defend his 400m medley title in 4:24.86s.

Results (Karnataka only): Women: 100m freestyle: 1. Dhinidhi Desinghu (56.57s NMR, Old: 56.78), 3. Rujula S (57.98). **200m backstroke:** 2. Naisha (2:21.64); **400m freestyle:** 2. Dhinidhi (4:25.76). **Men: 400m medley:** 1. Shoan Ganguly (4:24.80s), 3. Shivank Vishwanath (4:35.96) **1500m freestyle:** 2. Dharshan S (15:38); **4x100m medley:** 3. Karnataka (3:48.92; Akash Mani, Surya Jhoyappa, Chinthan S Shetty, Monish PV).

TOI

GOLDEN SPLASH: Dhinidhi Desinghu defended her 100m freestyle crown

Seasoned Manika questions snub

Mumbai: India's star table tennis player, Manika Batra, has broken her silence after being left out of the squad for the Asian Games, questioning the consistency and transparency of the selection process that saw her miss out despite being ranked just outside the world's top 50, reports **Anil Dais.** The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) on Thursday with Manika and Swastika Ghosh named among the reserves.

Under the selection policy national rankings carry 50% weightage, world rankings account for 40 % and the remaining 10 % is left to the discretion of the selection committee. Players ranked inside the world's top 50 earn automatic qualification and Manika's ranking on the June 2 cut-off date was 51. In a statement issued late on Thursday, Manika said, "I have never asked for special treatment." She urged the Sports Ministry and the Indian Olympic Association to examine the matter and ensure the process remains transparent and fair. TNN

Syed Asif

Lavanya Jadon

Zara stretches lead on Day 2

Bengaluru: Amateur Zara Anand took a two-shot lead after the second round of the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Bangalore Golf Club here on Wednesday, continuing her impressive run.

The 17-year-old followed her opening-round 64 with a steady 2-under 66 to move to 6-under 130 at the Bangalore Golf Club. Having finished runner-up multiple times on the Tour, the Noida teen is now well placed to chase a maiden professional title.

Meanwhile, overnight co-leader Lavanya Jadon slipped to second after carding an even-par 68. At 4-under 132, Lavanya remains firmly in contention, two shots behind the leader. Smriti Bhargav (65-68) and Durga Nittur (65-68) shared third place at 3-under 133.

Zara's round was built on consistency. After opening with three consecutive pars, she birdied the fourth, fifth, and sixth holes to make the turn at 3-under. Her only blemish came on the 12th, and she parred the remaining holes to finish with a 66. Lavanya recovered from an opening-hole bogey with a birdie on the second but dropped another shot on the fifth. Birdies on the 10th and 12th reignited her charge before a bogey on the closing hole left her with an even-par round.

Leading scores (after 36 holes): 130: Zara Anand (64, 66); **132:** Lavanya Jadon (64, 68); **133:** Smriti Bhargav (65, 68), Durga Nittur (65, 68); **134:** Vidhatri Urs (69, 65), Anvi Dahhiya (66, 68); **135:** Jasmine Shekar (68, 67), Mannat Brar (67, 68). TNN

Yashaswini for Asiad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka paddler Yashaswini Ghorpade has been named in India's women's table tennis squad for the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

TABLE TENNIS

The 21-year-old Bengaluru girl, who made her World Table Tennis Team Championships debut in April-May, is included for the quadrennial event alongside Sreeja Akula, Syndrela Das, Diya Chitale and Sutirtha Mukherjee. Yashaswini, who tops the Table Tennis Federation of India ranking charts, also grabbed her maiden senior national title in March.

The men's team comprises G Sathiyan, Harmeet Desai, Manav Vikas Thakkar, Manush Shah and Payas Jain.

Ankur Bhattacharjee and Ronit Bhanja are the reserves. The table tennis events will take place between Sept 20-28.

Municipal Corporation Jodhpur
Near Polytechnic College Residency Road Jodhpur
email:-"ceo_ nnj@rediffmail.com" Phone:-02912651464, FAX:-02912651464
S.No : 4569 Date:- 15.06.2026
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
(UBN Number DLB2627SLOB07647)
Online bids are invited electronically on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Jodhpur for the work **"Procurement Of Service For Operation Of Door To Door Household Waste Collection, Segregation And Transportation Of Collected Household Waste Upto Transfer Station Through Real Time Monitoring Using Geo-Fencing, VTS Based Monitoring System In Various Wards Of Zone No. 1 & 2 (Ward No.1 To 5, 26 To 35, 37 And 39) Of Nagar Nigam Jodhpur"**, from enlisted / eligible bidders of appropriate class of the department/ organization, latest up to 3 PM on - -26. The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or e-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Jodhpur
Raj.Samwad/C/26/5104

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of 33 KV Porcelain Type Pin Insulators under TN-2161 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00150), 11 KV Composite Polymer Type Pin Insulator under TN-2163 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00151), Galvanized Steel Stay Sets for size 16X1800 mm under TN-2164 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00152)and Fibre glass 3 section telescopic operating rod with Earthing conductor (Lead) and continuous pole height adjustment, Locking Mechanism having total extension length of 6 meters under TN-2165 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00153).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/26/5106 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नंबर 1800 180 6045

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB)
Plot No. R-7, Market Yard, Gultekadi, Pune - 411037
Phone: 020-24528100 / 24528200
Website: www.msamb.com, Email: export@msamb.com
Request for Proposal (RFP)
MSAMB, with support from the MAGNET Project, has developed the following facilities in Maharashtra:
1. Fruit & Vegetable Handling Facility, Baramati, District Pune
2. Fruit & Vegetable Handling Facility Center, Pachod, Taluka Paithan, District Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
3.Export Facility Center,Mohadi,Taluka Dindori,District Nashik
MSAMB invites separate proposals from competent agencies for the Operation, Maintenance and Management of the above-mentioned facilities. The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) documents and guidelines are available on the e-tendering portal at http://mahatenders.gov.in. The last date for submission of proposals is 10th July 2026. Any corrigendum, amendment, modification, or extension of the submission date, if any, shall be uploaded only on http://mahatenders.gov.in. Applicants are advised to visit the website regularly for updates.
Managing Director

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT
Office of the Commissioner, Kaushalya Bhavan, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029.
Phone No. 080 - 25189100/102 E-mail: ddpurchase2016@gmail.com
Ref No: DET/TRG/PUR-06/CR-03KQUEST-PMC/2026-27 Date: 18.06.2026
RFP (REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL) NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
The **Department of Industrial Training and Employment** has invited a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** through the **e-Procurement Portal 2.0 (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in),** in accordance with the **Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999,** for the appointment of a **Project Management Consultancy (PMC)** to oversee and implement the **K-QUEST Project** for the upgradation of GITIs, KGTTI, KSDA, and JTS with the assistance of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**
The **RFP (Request for Proposal)** can be downloaded from the **e-Procurement Portal 2.0** from **18.06.2026** onwards. The last date and time for uploading the RFP along with the technical documents through the portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **04.07.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
For more information, please visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For assistance, you may contact **080-22230960, 22234115,** or visit the office in person during working hours.
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
Deputy Director (Trg), Purchase Section
Dept. of Industrial Training & Employment
DIPR/CP/1226/Advrto/2026-27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	Last date for submission of bid
1.	Construction of G+1 floor Car Parking and Office Building behind Cauvery Bhavana. Building and additional first floor of the fire protection machinery building located on the North-East side behind Cauvery Bhavana, Bengaluru.	Tender Reference Number:KHB/2026-27/BD /WORK_INDENT 759 & IFT No.26/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026	1,88,96,914/-	30.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM
2	Construction of 4th Floor of Car Parking building at Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru Urban District.	Tender Reference Number:KHB/2026-27/BD /WORK_INDENT 760 & IFT No.27/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026	1,91,71,027/-	30.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM
3	Construction of Connecting Bridge from Cauvery Bhavana Building to Car Parking building and Interior works for Car parking building at Cauvery Bhavana, Bengaluru.	Tender Reference Number:KHB/2026-27/BD /WORK_INDENT 761 & IFT No.28/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026	1,93,26,834/-	30.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/1223/2026-27

BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), Bengaluru East City Corporation, Old Madras Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru-36
No.BCCC/EE/ELE/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 18.06.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Short term/Two cover System) (Through KPPP Portal only)
Executive Engineer (Electrical), BECC, invites Item Rate Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000 and 2017, from eligible contractors registered in Electrical Inspectorate/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations on behalf of The Commissioner, BECC, for the work as detailed in the table. The bidders may submit their bids for works given in the table below through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** The bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 of the ITT(KW-4) to qualify for award of the contract. **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal from **18/06/2026 by 04.00 PM onwards. 3)** Pre-bid meeting on **25-06-2026 @ 11.30 AM** (O/o Executive Engineer, Electrical, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bengaluru 36). **4)** Last Date for submission of tender: **04-07-2026 @ 04.00 PM. 5)** Opening of Technical Bid: **06-07-2026 @ 10.30 AM. 6)** Opening of Financial Bid: **08-07-2026 @ 11.00 AM.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount Put to Tender in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs.
	Period of completion : 180Days
1	Providing Energy Efficient LED Street lights and its accessories to Horamavu Division and HAL Airport Division. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.397.64 Lakhs,** EMD : **1,00,000.00 through KPP portal Another 4,96,500.00 vide BG/FDR before technical bid opening to this office**
2	Providing Energy Efficient LED Street lights and its accessories to KR Puram Division and Ramurthynagar Division. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.404.15 Lakhs,** EMD : **1,00,000.00 through KPP portal Another 5,06,500.00 vide BG/FDR before technical bid opening to this office**
3	Providing Energy Efficient LED Street lights and its accessories to Kadugodi Division and surrounding areas. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.786.33 Lakhs,** EMD : **1,00,000.00 through KPP portal Another 10,79,500.00 vide BG/FDR before technical bid opening to this office.**
4	Providing Energy Efficient LED Street lights and its accessories to Doddanekundi and Whitefield Divisions and surrounding areas. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.778.97 Lakhs,** EMD : **1,00,000.00 through KPP portal Another 10,68,500.00 vide BG/FDR before technical bid opening to this office.**
5	Providing Energy Efficient LED Street lights and its accessories to Marathalli Division and surrounding areas. Amount Put to Tender : **Rs.729.28 Lakhs,** EMD : **1,00,000.00 through KPP portal Another 9,94,000.00 vide BG/FDR before technical bid opening to this office.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Ele), BECC

25001/435/2627 email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Road Works under PMGSY-IV Batch-I
Identification No. NCB-08/RWCKJR / 2026-27
No.2984 // Date : 17.06.2026
1. Name of the work : Construction of road works under PMGSY-IV Batch-I in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of Packages : 38 (Thirtyeight) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : From Rs.56.95 lakh to Rs.994.74 lakh (Approximately).
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : 'B', 'A' & 'Special' Class of Contractor
5. Period of Completion : 06 (Six) - 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-08/ RWCKJR/ 2026-27	Dt. 23.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M	Dt. 13.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 10.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 14.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-25001/25177/1/26-27/0009

Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation Ltd,
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Company)
Chennai Circle
No.132, E.V.R Salai, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.
email id: secc.tnphl@tn.gov.in Phone: 044-28364753
Re-e-Tender-INVITATION FOR BIDS No.02/2026-27 Dated: 17.06.2026
1. For details, visit http://tntenders.gov.in & www.tnphc.com
2. e-Bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer / CC / TNPHC ltd., for "Construction of Modern Sports facilities for holding high jump and throwing events, synthetic track at Rajarathinam Stadium, Egmore in Chennai City" (Re-Tender). (SE/CC/DB/2685/2025)
3. Approximate value of work : Rs.1200.03 Lakhs + GST @18%
4. Date and Time for Downloading / Uploading of bid documents through online : 01.07.2026 at 12.00 Noon to 20.07.2026 upto 6.00 P.M
5. Date and Time of Opening of the bid : 22.07.2026 at 03.15 P.M
6. Other details can be seen in the bid documents.
DIPR / 2089 / TENDER / 2026
Superintending Engineer / CC, TNPHC Ltd, Chennai

32001/407/2627
GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi
(email Id: se_sicpkd@yahoo.com)
e- Procurement Notice No. ACEVNB-03/2026-27

1.	Type of works	: Canal Lining
2.	Total number of Packages	: 2 (two) Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost	: Rs. 735.64 lakhs to Rs. 752.58 lakhs
4.	Bid Identification No.	: ACEVNB/HID-02/2026-27, ACEVNB/HID-03/2026-27
5.	Period of completion	: 12 (Twelve) months
6.	Availability & submission of bids online	: From 11.00 AM of 25.06.2026 to 5.00 PM of 17.07.2026.
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	: 18.07.2026 at 11.00 AM. in the, O/O the Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
8.	Procurement Officer	: Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
9.	Further details can be seen from Govt. Website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** and any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation will be published in the said website.	

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin
Paralakhemundi
OIPR-32001/32417/1/26-27/0003

32001/408/2627
Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha
"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-BBSR- 04/2026-27
1. Name of the Works: **Total 02 (Two) Nos.** Drainage work.
2. Estimated cost: **Rs. 331.21 lakh to Rs. 599.98 lakh**
3. Period of Completion: **11 (Eleven)** months
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal: From **11.00 hours of Dt. 22.06.2026 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 07.07.2026.**
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: **18.00 hours of Dt. 07.07.2026.**
6. Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **08.07.2026 at 11.00 hours**
7. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar- 751012. **e-mail Id:- sedrainagebbsr12@gmail.com.**
8. The update notification will be intimated to the participated bidders to their registered e-mail & to their registered mobile number through an autogenerated text message by e-procurement system. On such intimation, individual bidder needs to log in to their ID through DSC to know the uploaded summary, i.e. details of opening of financial bid, lottery date time, venue, acceptance of bid etc.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.
Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Drainage Circle, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32001/32409/1/26-27/0003

34001/363/2627
Government of Odisha
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E. Dkl. (R&B) 05/2026-27 Email Id-sedklpwd@gmail.com
Letter No. 1280 /Dt. 17.06.2026
The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as detailed below:
1. Name of the work : Building work
2. No of works : 01 (One) No
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.1.96 Crore (as given in column No. 03 of table)
4. Cost of tender paper : Rs 10,000.00
5. Class of contractor : 'B' Class & 'A' Class (as given in column No. 07 of table)
6. Period of Completion of work : 07 (Seven) calendar months (as given in column No. 08 of table)
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.24.06.2026 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.08.07.2026
8. Date of opening of bid : Dt.09.07.2026 at 11.00A.M.
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Dhenkanal(R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
OIPR-34001/34132/1/26-27/0008

25001/436/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
Email ID-serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2807 Date: 16.06.2026
Corrigendum to Bid identification No. Online Tender/NCB 01/ RWCSBD / 2026-27, NCB-02/RWCSBD / 2026-27, NCB - 03 / RWCSBD / 2026-27
In partial modification to the above Bid Identification the date of sale, receipt and opening of the tenders as stated below:

Sl No	Corrigendum for	Provision kept in TCN:	1st corrigendum modified with:	Now modified with
1.	Date of availability of tender	16.05.2026 to 05.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM.	17.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM	23.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM
2.	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	06.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon	18.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon	24.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0045

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GOAL RUSH

11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026

TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

"THERE ARE SEVEN OR EIGHT PLAYERS WHO ARE FIRST-TEAM REGULARS. AND THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR PLAYERS WHO ARE ALWAYS ROTATED DEPENDING ON THE OPPOSITION AND THE STRATEGY."

—DANILO
BRAZIL DEFENDER

CR7 AND THE ART OF NOT LETTING GO

Portugal Great's Decline Leaves Team Trapped In The Past

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

Cristiano Ronaldo was a great player. But he isn't any more. It's a truth that has been staring at the face of world football for close to five years now, but Portugal refuses to believe it. And so do his millions of fanatics across the world.

On Wednesday, after Leo Messi set the stage on fire with his hat-trick, a 41-year-old Ronaldo pulled Portugal down once again. As he has been doing over the last four years — his last goal in a major competition (World Cup or Euros) — coming against Ghana from a penalty in the 2022 World Cup group stage.

Over 98 minutes at Houston, 25 touches, 0 shots on target, hardly any participation in build up play — these are bullet points that indicate how the mighty has fallen. Ronaldo's greatest attribute as a central striker — an avatar that he had cultivated in the second phase of his career in Real Madrid — was about his ability to be a physical beast who could take on defenders at the dying stages, conjuring up magical, high-adrenaline goal rush.

But against DR Congo, when the desperate crosses flew in trying to break the 1-1 deadlock, Ronaldo was nowhere. The defenders are no Diego Godin, Leonardo Bonucci or Gerard Pique, but it seemed Ronaldo simply didn't have the belief he could take them on. He merely waited, hoping that the defence would spill one on its own for him to recreate his photogenic celebration moment after becoming the first player to score in six World Cups. But it didn't happen.

When Ronaldo had left the stage after the 2022 quarterfinal loss to Morocco with tears in his eyes, unable to meet a cross in the dying stages which he would have headed home in his sleep at his pomp, there was a tinge of sadness.

But what felt like tragedy at that stage with the protagonist unable to accept that the world order is changing around him, has now transpired into farce. The once heart-and-soul of the Portugal team who carried the team on his shoulders, is now more of a hindrance than a help for a terrific midfield comprising Vitinha, Joao Neves, Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva. On Wednesday, when a ball was played in from the byline towards the latter stages, Ronaldo, instead of attacking the first post, merely tried to do the spectacular, messing up a simple tap-in for Bruno.

Former French legend Thierry Henry summed it up when he said: "One thing that's important, the team needs to score. Not YOU need to score…Because he wants to score, he goes in the path of the back pass. And that's my thing: The team needs to score. Not you."

It's not that Portugal don't have options upfront. A smart, young striker from the PSG stable like Goncalo Ramos or a physical entity like Rafael Leao would have been an easy fit. But it can't be if it's Portugal, because no one sells shirts like Ronaldo.

Dhoni-like situation

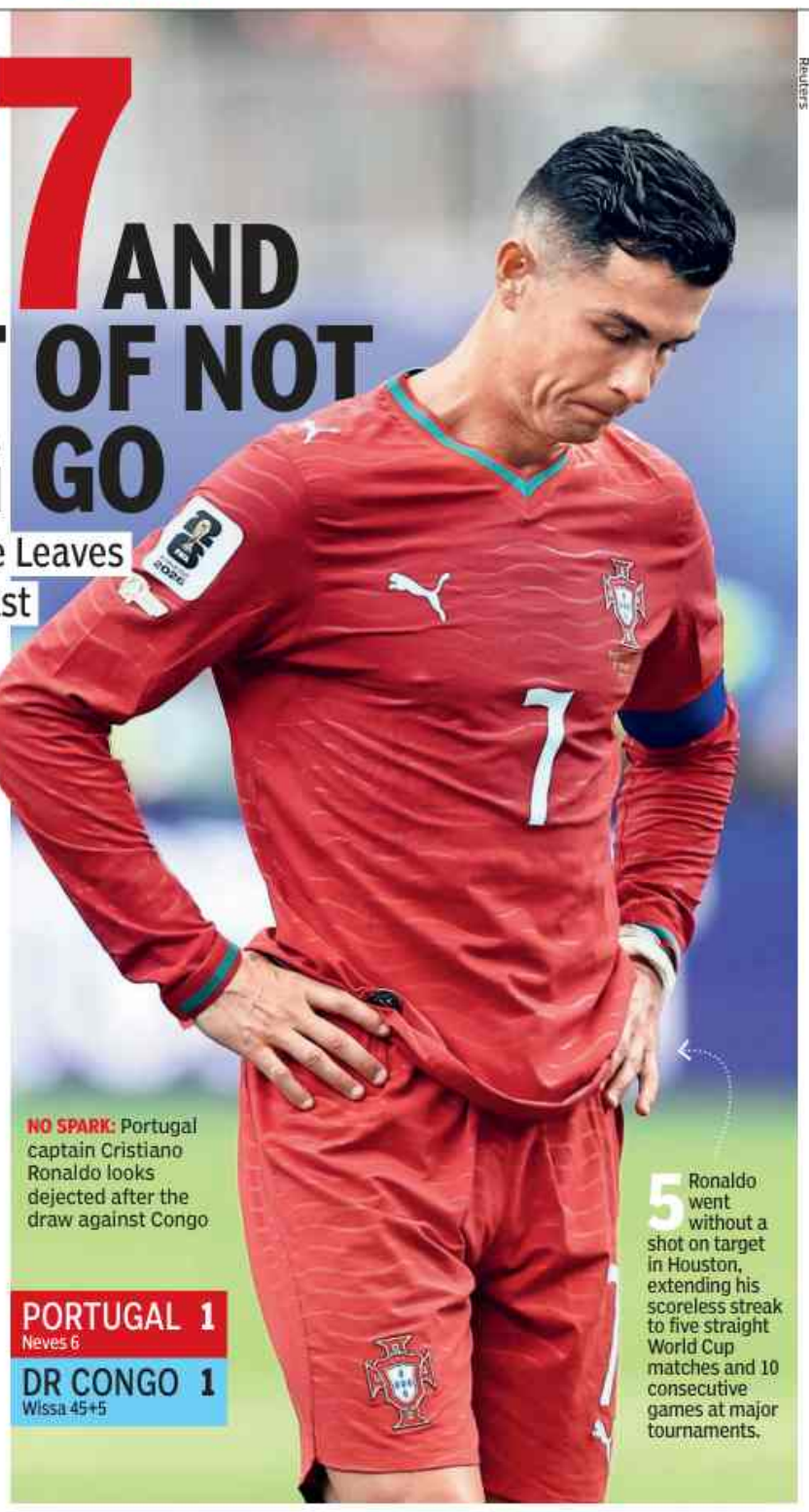
There is a parallel back home that will probably simplify the situation for the cricket-minded. Chennai Super Kings are still one of the most followed sports teams in India and that has a lot to do with MS Dhoni. For four years now, CSK's No. 7 — a Ronaldo fan courtesy his Manchester United allegiance — is nowhere close to his best. Yet, MSD never retires, because the team still doesn't have a 'brand ambassador' of his magnitude.

Dhoni, though, tries his best not to attract limelight when he is not playing — as was the case this year due to injuries. But that isn't the case for Ronaldo. It's his grumpy face that will always be the focus of every camera if the legend is left on the bench.

Portugal's former coach Fernando Santos had to deal with it when he tried giving Ronaldo the bench-treatment in the latter stages of the last World Cup. And the current boss Roberto Martinez is not even ready to walk that path.

Incidentally, Martinez had the same problem with Eden Hazard when he was the Belgium boss. During the last World Cup, when he should have dropped an immensely underperforming Hazard, he made the then Real Madrid winger the captain. Result, a talented Belgium side went home from the group stages.

In this World Cup, Portugal have the cushion of qualifying for Round of 32 as one of the eight best third-placed teams. Given the quality of personnel that Martinez has, he may not need that option to go deep in the tournament. Provided he chooses his pieces as per current form and not brand value. There is, after all, light at the end of Ronaldo tunnel, and it's for the team management to see it, and act upon it.



Reuters

NO SPARK: Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo looks dejected after the draw against Congo

PORTUGAL 1
Neves 6
DR CONGO 1
Wissa 45+5

5 Ronaldo went without a shot on target in Houston, extending his scoreless streak to five straight World Cup matches and 10 consecutive games at major tournaments.

CAPTAIN KANE'S DOUBLE BILL ROCKS CROATIA

Bellingham & Rashford Also Strike To Give Tuchel A Winning Start

John Cross

Dallas: Strap yourselves in for a whiteknuckle ride in this World Cup. Thomas Tuchel's men got off to a winning start in a six-goal thriller, but they really put England fans through the wringer in the AT&T Stadium in Dallas.

Twice they threw away the lead and were a complete mess at the back at times, before a stunning goal from Jude Bellingham edged them in front and sub Marcus Rashford sealed it. Harry Kane delivered with two goals — including a retaken penalty — as England's Captain Marvel showed he is ready for a shootout with Lionel Messi, Erling Haaland, Kylian Mbappe and Co.

But it was Bellingham — 'who else' as he famously said at Euro 2024 — who really owned this game. Noni Madueke seized on the ball in the box, Luka Modric went to clear it and caught the England winger in the process. It was a clear penalty. The captain stepped up but took a stuttering run-up. Dominik Livakovic made a diving save but the Croatia keeper moved off his line and his defenders creeping into the box. It was a double encroachment and a major let-off. But Kane stepped up again and this time he absolutely smashed it into the right corner.

Croatia drew level. Petar Sucic sold John Stones a dummy, the forward then laid it off for Martin Baturina who smashed the ball home.

England were back in front after 42 minutes. They relied on the Arsenal playbook as Declan Rice's corner was an open invitation for Kane to storm through and head home.

But England were not safe and once again conceded just before half-time.

Ivan Perisic just stayed onside, his clever flick set up Petar Musa and the FC Dallas striker smashed a shot home.

Those sitting at home were treated to a no-holds-barred half-time interview from Three Lions assistant coach Anthony Barry. He told TV that England were "confusing" and looked "fearful". He was spot on. Bellingham did not need telling. He made a sensational, powerful run after the break before cutting into the box and firing a low shot that flew into the far corner.

England were back in charge. Kane was twice denied by Livakovic, while the Croatia keeper also kept out efforts from Nico O'Reilly and Anthony Gordon to stop England putting the game out of reach.

That was until substitute Rashford slotted home with five minutes remaining to ensure the Three Lions got off to a winning start. DAILY MIRROR

10 Harry Kane has now scored 10 World Cup goals; tying Gary Lineker for most by an English player. He is now 6 behind top-scorers of all time, Lionel Messi and Miroslav Klose. AP

ENGLAND 4
Kane 12 (pen), 42, Bellingham 47, Rashford 85
CROATIA 2
Baturina 36, Musa 45+5

SHARP SHOOTER: England captain Harry Kane (9) celebrates after scoring against Croatia in Dallas

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

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South Africa secure draw with late penalty

Atlanta: South Teboho Mokoena's penalty kept South Africa's dream of reaching the World Cup knockout stages for the first time alive after a 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic in Atlanta on Thursday.

Michal Sadilek's early opener had the Czechs on course for just their second World Cup win as an independent nation.

But Mokoena's late spot-kick kept both teams in the hunt for the last 32, although they will almost certainly have to win their final Group A fixture to advance.

Both sides move onto one point, two behind co-hosts Mexico and South Korea, who face off later on Thursday.

Both sides started with disappointing performances and defeats on the World Cup's opening day, but the Czechs quickly set about making amends.

Patrik Schick is the biggest name in a Czech side lacking the star quality of previous generations but the Bayer Leverkusen forward missed a glorious chance inside the first minute when he planted a header wide.

Miroslav Koubek's men only had to wait another five minutes to take the lead. Adam Hlozek's cross was classily cushioned by Alexandr Sojka into the path of Sadilek, who calmly stroked the ball past Ronwen Williams.

The Czechs were left to rue not making more of their chances to kill the game off early in the second half. AFP

CZECHIA 1
Sadilek 6
S AFRICA 1
Mokoena 83 (p)

POSTMEN TAKE CENTRESTAGE

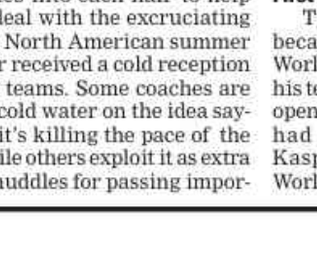
Goalkeepers, some of them in the twilight of their careers, have come to the party at the World Cup. If Vozinha, 40, stole the show for Cabo Verde with a string of saves against Spain, Saudi Arabia veteran Mohammed Al-Owais made nine saves, the most by any keeper so far. **TOI** takes a look at five keepers who made news in the first round...

VOZINHA, Cabo Verde: However hard Spain tried, they just could not find a way past 40-year-old Josimar Jose Evora Dias, or Vozinha as he is known. Spain had 24 shots and the keeper was in stunning form. His most impressive saves came when he pushed Ferran Torres' attempt on to the bar and then dived backwards to keep out the resultant header from Mikel Oyarzabal.

MOHAMMED AL OWAIS, Saudi Arabia: He was busy from start to finish as Uruguay launched a fierce attack in their 1-1 draw. Al Owais made nine saves, saving his best for the last when he kept out a fierce stoppage-time effort from Federico Valverde round the post.

PATRICK BEACH, Australia: Handed a surprise start and playing in just his third international match, the 22-year-old keeper covered himself in glory against Turkey. When Abdulkerim Bardakci sent a powerful long-range shot, it seemed destined for goal, only for a fully outstretched Beach to push it away.

ZION SUZUKI, Japan: In one of the tournament's best games, Japan struck late to earn a 2-2 draw against Netherlands. Besides the scorers, they had goalkeeper Zion Suzuki to thank too as he showcased his brilliance with some great saves to deny Donyell Malen in the first half and Cody Gakpo later on.



MOSTAFA SHOBEIR, Egypt: The Egypt goalkeeper followed in his father's footsteps when he starred against Belgium, just like his father did at Italy 1990. Shobeir made several crucial saves and stood tall in the face of enormous Belgium pressure. His best in the closing stages of the game when he dived full length to keep out a header and win his side a point.

— Marcus Mergulhao

Diaz stars in Colombia's successful opening

Mexico City: Colombia winger Luis Diaz inspired his side to victory as the South Americans marked their return to the World Cup, having missed the 2022 edition. Goals from Daniel Munoz, Diaz and Jaminton Campaz secured victory for Colombia.

After Daniel Munoz opened the scoring late in the first half, Uzbekistan levelled through Abbosbek Fayzullaev on the hour mark. However, Colombia quickly regained control through Diaz before substitute Jaminton Campaz sealed the result in stoppage time.

After the game, Diaz walked to the sidelines to look for his father. They spotted each other, fulfilling a dream that was years in the making. "A lot of things came to me from the past," Diaz said. Uzbekistan coach Fabio Cannavaro said "I told them that I am very proud of the match they played. When a small team like ours works the way it did today, it's clear that losing 3-1 is too much." AGENCIES

UZBEKISTAN 1
Fayzullaev 60
COLOMBIA 3
Munoz 40, Diaz 65, Campaz 90+9

Messi's father recovering from health issue: Family

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi's father is recovering from a health issue and "evolving favourably", his family said in a statement on Thursday. Messi's family said Jorge was "under medical follow-up" and asked for privacy.

"The health of one person and the tranquility of those around them should not be object of speculation or of irresponsible media interest," the family said. Speculation about the health of Jorge Messi intensified after Lionel wiped away tears with his shirt after scoring Argentina's first goal against Algeria. REUTERS

Queiroz upbeat after Ghana win

Toronto: Caleb Yirenkyi scored a stoppage-time winner to earn Ghana a 1-0 win over Panama in a chilly and lively World Cup game on Wednesday in which the African side were forced to play the second half without starting goalkeeper Lawrence Ati Zigi.

Ghana coach Carlos Queiroz said wins in this tournament came at a high price and that his players had shown they were ready to pay. "With the football we played today we can count on Ghana to do something," he said. Queiroz, 73, was not scheduled to go to the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States until April when Ghana appointed him in place of Otto Addo, fired in March after a series of disappointing results.

The Portuguese, however, complained about the rough handling of Ghana players by the Panamanian side, and said his team were "naive and not aggressive in the first half".

Ati Zigi received treatment following a collision near the end of the first half and was replaced by Benjamin Asare when the game started to open up and Ghana found their stride. "Not sure," Queiroz said about Zigi's availability for the next game against England. "It is early and this kind of injury it is only after 24 to 48 hours we can be sure."

"The result is painful, but that is because we deserved better," said Panama manager Thomas Christiansen. "We controlled the first half, but in the second half, we played their game a bit more. That's not how we wanted to play."

GHANA 1
Yirenkyi 90+5
PANAMA 0

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU

CURACAO HAS A POPULATION OF JUST 1.5 LAKHS
A 5000 YEAR-OLD CIVILISATION OF 1.4 BILLION HAS BIGGER GOALS
CURACAO IN FIFA WORLD CUP

One week in, WC not for the faint-hearted!

Nilesh.Bhattacharya@timesofindia.com

This World Cup in a North American summer has been thrust upon us like a split screen — 90 minutes of riveting football drama with an intriguing invitation to absorb the narrative with different perspectives. If the start to the carnival is anything to go by, it has everything: the usual political razzmatazz, tiny debutants Cape Verde's plucky draw with Spain, big guns firing on all cylinders and Algeria suffering a Messi end. Mind it, the tournament is but just a week-old.

Games	Goals	Draws	Hat-trick	Double	Red cards	Own goals
24	75	9	1	7	3	3

Shaking up the status quo

Germany's 7-1 demolition of debutants Curacao lent more credence to this apprehension of having an unremittingly bleak start to the World Cup. On came another debutants Cape Verde and shook up the narrative completely by holding European champions Spain goalless.

Simply Messi-merizing

If Cape Verde's show can be seen as a rejection of the tournament's one-dimensionality, Lionel Messi has produced football's very essential joie de vivre moment. His first World Cup hat-trick in Argentina's 3-0 rout of Algeria was a bold announcement that his magic is very much alive and kicking. With 16 goals in his bag, as he gets 'Klose-r' to break more ground in his likely swansong, the Messi-mania will keep us engaged in wondering to what extent the human body can push the boundary.

Unlike Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo began his record-equalling sixth World Cup with an anonymous performance in Portugal's frustrating 1-1 draw against Congo.

The other big guns, however, have been on fire. France's Kylian Mbappe, England's Harry Kane and Erling Haaland of Norway all have netted a brace each, bringing immediate life into the race for the Golden Boot.

Politics' underlying current

In a 'MAGA' World Cup, nothing seems to be far from the politics. And nowhere it is felt more profoundly than in Iran's case, who had to return to their training base in Mexico two hours after playing a 2-2 draw with New Zealand in Los Angeles. The reason? The Trump administration's strict travel restrictions imposed on Team Melli. Political exhibitionism was also at play during the game when some Iranian supporters displayed banners reading "MINAB 168" in the stands in reference to the US attack at the girls' elementary school in South Iran killing 168 while others unfurled Iran's pre-revolutionary flag — as a symbol of opposition to the current regime.

A cold reception to hydration break

FIFA's novel introduction of hydration breaks — pausing a game 22 minutes into each half to help players deal with the excruciating heat of a North American summer has so far received a cold reception from the teams. Some coaches are pouring cold water on the idea saying that it's killing the pace of the game while others exploit it as extra tactical huddles for passing important instructions to the players.

"It's not two half-times, it is four quarter times basically that we've got," said France manager Didier Deschamps.

First 'casualty'

Tunisia coach Sabri Lamouchi became the first 'casualty' of the World Cup when he was fired after his team's 1-5 loss to Sweden in their opening match. In 1998 too, Tunisia had fired their coach Henryk Kasperczak two matches in the World Cup in France.

Looking Back, Or Picking Up The Pieces...

MORA'S MOMENT
When Mexico teenager Gilberto Mora entered as a substitute in the second half of El Tri's 2-0 victory over South Africa in the tournament opener, the midfielder at 17 years and 240 days became the youngest player to feature in this World Cup.

Bangalore Times

AR RAHMAN

'Making music for movies was not the intention; it just happened'

When a child prodigy became a composer at four and asked Amma to fight Mani Ratnam's battles

L

Preity Zinta gets Bombay HC nod to run platforms over AI deepfakes

P

BRAZIL MUST ENTER DANGER ZONE MORE OFTEN

Ancelotti's Side Has Room For Improvement, Important To Win Big Against Haiti

HOME TRUTHS
ROMARIO

There was a thought that a 48-team World Cup would witness some lopsided contests between nations placed far apart in FIFA rankings.

Taking into account Cabo Verde's draw against Spain, it would be a massive surprise if Brazil stumble against Haiti.

The five-time champions were not at their best against a determined and disciplined Morocco in the absence of Neymar. Other than a spectacular goal by Vinicius Junior, there was little of note by Brazil in the attacking third. Shortcomings were evident also in midfield and defence. Carlo Ancelotti's side has a lot of room for improvement.

Against a team ranked 83rd, Brazil should not face the kind of challenge Morocco posed. Haiti are in the World Cup after a long time and lost 0-1 against Scotland in their opening match. I am aware that gaps in rankings might be misleading. Yet, it is safe to predict a Brazil win if they play their natural game. Their last match against the only European team in group will be tougher. It's important to win big against Haiti.

Lack of conviction in attack apart, there were other areas of concern in Brazil's first World Cup match under a foreign coach. Morocco scored by slipping the ball through central defenders Marquinhos and Gabriel Magalhaes. It was a lapse unexpected of two experienced pros playing for renowned European clubs.

TOI Print Exclusive

There was no resistance in midfield either, although this got better in the second half following a double substitution by Ancelotti.

Coached by Frenchman Sebastien Migne, Haiti should try to exploit these weaknesses. Only once have Brazil met Haiti in a competitive fixture. It was a 7-1 win in the 2016 Copa America in Florida. Another win in the same continent will keep Brazil in contention to top Group C. With Neymar uncertain, eyes will be on Vinicius and Raphinha. They had good seasons with Real Madrid and Barcelona. It's time to replicate the form in national colours.

Haiti were not disgraced against Scotland in their first World Cup appearance after 52 years. They had lost all three matches back then. Anything better this time looks unlikely, but one never knows! There are examples of underdogs punching above weight. Even this World Cup has seen one already.

17-1 Across their three previous meetings, Brazil have outscored Haiti by an aggregate score of 17-1

There is a chance that Neymar won't play before the knockouts. To get there, his teammates have to raise their game and create opportunities. Brazil wasted two against Morocco and must reach the danger zone more often. Better communication between midfield and attack is essential.

The irony with Neymar is, except for 2014, where he missed the semifinal due to a career-threatening injury, he has reached the next three editions either injured or just-recovered. Brazil will miss his skills and intelligence.

The sooner he returns, the better for Ancelotti and Brazil. PMG

GROUP C: BRAZIL VS HAITI
6 am (Sat) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Reuters

OFF CENTRE: Neymar (centre) went through the drills with Rafinha (left) and Marquinhos

Neymar not travelling with Brazil squad

Miami: Brazil forward Neymar will not travel with the squad for their second World Cup group game against Haiti in Philadelphia on Friday as he continues to recover from a calf injury, the Brazilian football association said. "He will remain in New Jersey, making use of the excellent facilities at The Ridge hotel and the Columbia Park training centre," they said in a statement.

JOURNEY OF AFRICA

IANS

BUNDLE OF JOY: DR Congo players celebrate after scoring against Portugal on Wednesday

Prominent shows by African teams in this WC:

- **Ghana beat** Panama; **Ivory Coast** bt Ecuador
- **Cabo Verde** held Spain while **Morocco** played out a draw with Brazil
- **DR Congo** (formerly known as Zaire and the **first black African nation** to play WC in 1974) drew with Portugal

AFRICAN HIGHLIGHTS OVER DECADES

1930-70s In **1934**, Egypt and Hungary were tied 2-2 in the pre-quarterfinals before Hungary won 4-2.

- From **1934** to **1962**, no African country made it to the World Cup.
- **1966: African nations boycotted the tournament** because FIFA chose not to give a single automatic spot to the continent. The continent participated four years later only after FIFA guaranteed them a spot.

1970s In **1974**, **Zaire lost all three group games** while in **1978**, **Tunisia became the first Africa nation** to win a WC match beating Mexico 3-1

1980s In **1982**, for the first time, **two spots were given to Africa.** Algeria defeated West Germany 2-1 and Chile 3-2, but were eliminated from group stage following **'Disgrace of Gijon'**, when the two European teams allegedly colluded for a 1-0 result in favour of the 1974 champions that ensured qualification for both. Cameroon, too, lost out narrowly

1986: Morocco became the **first African country to make it to the knockouts,** but lost 0-1 to West Germany in pre-quarterfinals

1990s In **1990**, Cameroon stunned defending champions Argentina but lost 2-3 to England in quarters. **Roger Milla**, at 38, became the oldest WC goal scorer. Three slots were given to Africa in **1994** with Nigeria losing to Italy in round of 16. **1998** saw **five slots** to Africa in an extended 32-team World Cup.

2000s In **2002**, debutants **Senegal defeated champions France** in the opener, before losing to Turkey in the quarterfinals

2010s In **2010**, there were **six African teams** including hosts South Africa. **Ghana had one foot in the semis** but Uruguay's **Luiz Suarez's deliberate handball** could end only in a penalty that Ghana's Gyan failed to convert. They lost in a shootout. In **2018**, Nigeria was four minutes away from the knockouts, but they conceded a late goal against Argentina to crash out.

2020s In **2022**, **Morocco** became the **first African team to enter the semis** while in **2026**, there are **10 teams** in the event.

Compiled by Amit Kumarsar

Getty Images

'Opener done, no room for nerves now'

Guadalajara: Mexico coach Javier Aguirre said on Wednesday that any patience regarding his players' opening-match nerves has expired as the co-hosts prepare for a high-speed World Cup encounter against South Korea.

Both teams enter the Group A clash at the Guadalajara Stadium on Thursday with three points following opening victories, with South Korea beating Czechia 2-1.

While Mexico defeated South Africa 2-0 to start their campaign, Aguirre noted that 10 of his players were making their World Cup debuts and appeared physically and mentally tight under the pressure of the home crowd. "I granted them the benefit of the doubt for the nervousness of a debut," Aguirre said. "But I told them I can no longer allow a player, because of the stage, to be unable to make a three- or four-metre pass or a movement they have trained for."

Reuters

MEXICO'S GUILLERMO OCHOA

2 Mexico lead 2-0 against South Korea in WC matches, overall 8-4

Aguirre identified South Korea's transition speed as the primary threat, citing a friendly between the two nations in September where Mexico struggled to contain their counter-attacks.

"The speed of the Koreans going forward - we have trained on how to nullify it," Aguirre said.

The 67-year-old also addressed the growing debate surrounding FIFA's mandatory hydration breaks. "We take advantage of the rules," Aguirre said. "It allows you to give instructions while the players drink water." REUTERS

6:30 am (Friday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

MEXICO VS SOUTH KOREA (Group A)

World Cup appearances Mex: **18th** | S. Kor: **12th**	FIFA rank Mex: **14** | S. Kor: **25**
Best Finish: Mex: **Quarters (1970, 1986)** | S. Kor: **4th place (2002)**	

US hope Pulisic can face Australia

Irvine: United States players said they hope Christian Pulisic will be available for their Group D World Cup clash against Australia on Friday after the forward was substituted at halftime in their opener with a left calf injury.

Team officials told reporters at US base camp on Wednesday that Pulisic was still being evaluated daily and remains in a "modified training program," doing individual work both in the gym and on the field.

"We're really hoping Christian is going to be back for the game of course," Brenden Aaronson, who could potentially start in Pulisic's place, told reporters. "I don't really know what is going on in particular, but we know that he is going to give us his all to get back into the team."

Pulisic was sensational in the first half in the co-hosts' 4-1 thrashing of Paraguay at LA Stadium on Friday.

The squad appeared relaxed and upbeat on Wednesday at Great Park Sports Complex. "It's a great group of guys, and the togetherness is really, really close," Aaronson said. REUTERS

GROUP D: USA VS AUSTRALIA
12:30am (Fri) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

SHORT PASSES

CABO VERDE KEEPER'S MOM GETS US VISA, FINALLY

Miami: The mother of Cabo Verde goalkeeper Vozinha will finally get to watch her son play at the World Cup after receiving a visa to travel to the United States, following his tearful revelation that Ana Candida Evora missed his heroics against Spain due to a visa problem. The U.S. State Department stepped in after his emotional disclosure went viral. Evora will now be able to watch her son when Cabo Verde face Uruguay in Miami on Sunday.

AFP

BIRDMAN OF AZTECA: Colombian fan 'El Cole' in Mexico City

CAPTAINS SWAP PENNANTS DENOUNCING HATE

Captains at Thursday's fixtures exchanged pennants denouncing discrimination to mark the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, as FIFA revealed it blocked hundreds of thousands of abusive posts during the week. The pennants bear the slogan "We Play Together. We Stand Against Hate." AGENCIES

Formidable Morocco a big test for upbeat Scotland

Boston: Scotland have hit the ground running in the World Cup with an opening 1-0 victory over Haiti in Group C and with their Tartan Army of fans winning hearts in Boston, but their return to the city on Friday to face Morocco could dampen their spirits.

The North Africans, surprise World Cup semi-finalists four years ago, held five-time world champions Brazil to a 1-1 draw in their opener and may flip the script in the group. A win over Scotland would almost certainly see them through to the next round on four points and they will deservedly go into the match as favourites.

Four years ago, Morocco, who will co-host the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Spain, beat Belgium, Spain and Portugal on their run to the last four. This time around they look to be an even more efficient unit, with coach Mohamed Ouahbi, who only took the helm three months ago and led Morocco to U-20 World Cup success last year.

AP

MOROCCO'S BOUADDI

1 Morocco beat Scotland 3-0 at the 1998 WC, in the **only international** they played against each other

One of them has already stood out at the World Cup. Ayyoub Bouaddi, aged 18, looked completely at ease against Brazil in his first competitive international after his recent switch to represent them instead of France. Bouaddi will have had Scotland coach Steve Clarke sit up and take notice. But the three points have pconsiderably eased the strain on Clarke's players. "I think the players are more relaxed," said assistant coach Steven Naismith. REUTERS

SCOTLAND VS MOROCCO (Group C)

World Cup appearances Sco: **9th** | Mor: **7th**	
FIFA rank: Sco: **42** | Mor: **7**	
Best Finish Sco: **Gr stage** Mor: **4th place (2022)**	

3:30 am (Sat) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

SNAP SHOTS

BCCI eyes Mar 10-May 15 IPL window for 2027

To beat extreme May heat in most parts of India, BCCI is thinking of an early start to the IPL, eyeing a March 10-May 15 window for future editions from next year, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said.

Phillips' maiden Test ton powers NZ in second Test: Glenn Phillips maiden Test century helped New Zealand post 391 in the first innings at the Oval on Day Two of the second Test against England. Phillips was out for 100. At tea, England were 118-2 trailing by 273 runs.

India stun Germany: India stunned reigning world champions Germany 3-1 in the FIH Pro League to celebrate midfield maestro Manpreet Singh's milestone match in Rotterdam on Wednesday. The 33-year-old Manpreet became India's most-capped hockey player with his 413th appearance for the country. He surpassed Dilip Tirkey who had 412 caps.

Indian women beat Uruguay in hockey Nations Cup: India beat Uruguay 3-2 to top its pool in the FIH women's Nations Cup hockey in New Zealand. Deepika netted twice while Deepika Soreng also scored.

Hooda enters quarters of boxing WC: Minakshi Hooda entered the quarterfinals of the boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in the women's 51kg category in Guiyang. She registered a 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Natalia Kuczewska.

Real Madrid sign Konate: French centre-back Ibrahima Konate will be representing Real Madrid for the next four seasons. He has signed a contract till June 30, 2030.

Bagan sign Bheke: Experienced India defender Rahul Bheke was on Thursday unveiled by Mohun Bagan Super Giant as their new recruit on a one-year contract. The 34-year-old joins from Bengaluru FC.

Abhay-Velavan start on a high: Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar started their title defence defeating South Korea's Oh Seojin and MinWoo Lee 11-7, 11-10 at the Asian Doubles Squash Championships in Sarawak, Malaysia on Thursday.

Neeraj eyes strong comeback

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New Delhi: Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra will finally return to competition at the Doha Diamond League on Friday night, marking the start of his 2026 season after a prolonged injury layoff that delayed his comeback and forced him to focus extensively on rehabilitation and recovery.

DIAMOND LEAGUE

The 28-year-old has not competed since the World Championships in Tokyo last year, when a lower back injury severely hampered his performance and saw him finish a disappointing eighth with a best throw of 84.03m. Looking back, Chopra admitted that competing in Tokyo may not have been the right call.

"I had an injury before the World Championships. We worked hard and still competed, but I don't think it was a good decision because I already knew there was a problem. It was the last competition of the season, so I decided to compete," he said.

FRESH START: Neeraj Chopra

Following Tokyo, Chopra shifted his attention entirely to rehabilitation, working closely with childhood coach Jaiveer Chaudhary and long-time physio Ishaan Marwaha. Having also battled ankle, shoulder, wrist and adductor issues in recent years, Chopra believes he is finally ready to compete again. "In an athlete's life, when one injury improves, another can appear. We sat together as a team and worked on every part of my body. I feel really good and fit now," he said.

Doha holds special significance for Chopra. It was at the same venue last year that he finally breached the coveted 90m barrier with a throw of 90.23m under the guidance of world record-holder Jan Zelezny. This time, however, his focus extends beyond simply opening the season.

Chopra has been named in India's athletics squad for next month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, but he still needs to achieve the qualification mark of 82.61m to secure direct entry. With the CWG portal set to close on June 23, and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) required to submit the country's final contingent before then, the competition at the Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium carries added importance.

While the CWG qualification distance appears modest by Chopra's standards, wind conditions could influence the outcome. "You need to understand how to use the wind. It can help your runway speed and the flight of the javelin, but only if you throw correctly," he explained. The Doha meet will also feature one of the most anticipated rivalries of the season as Chopra faces Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, the man in form after producing a world-leading 92.62m in Rome earlier this month.

Kohli likely to be fit for ODIs

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Mumbai: Virat Kohli has made significant progress in recovering from his hamstring injury and is on course to return for India's ODI tour of England next month, TOI has learnt. "Kohli has started his rehabilitation, and his injury is healing quickly. He is supposed to report to the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for his fitness assessment and clearance soon.

ENGLAND SERIES

"If his recovery goes as planned, Kohli is expected to make his comeback to the team in the upcoming England series," a source said.

The Indian ODI squad for the England tour is expected to be picked later this week. Confirming the timeline, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told TOI: "The selection committee meeting to pick India's ODI team for the England tour will be held in the next 3-4 days."

TOI

GEARING UP: Virat Kohli

The three-match ODI series will be played from July 14-19 at Birmingham, Cardiff and Lord's.

The 37-year-old missed the ongoing ODI series against Afghanistan after suffering a hamstring injury during his unbeaten 75 off 42 balls in the IPL final, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru chase down 156 against Gujarat Titans and secure a second successive title. Kohli has been consulting BCCI orthopaedic specialist Dr Dinshaw Pardiwalla during his recovery.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar had earlier indicated that Kohli could be available for the England series, while cautioning that the medical staff had not yet provided a definitive timeline.

"With Virat, it's been less than a week since he injured himself in the IPL final. We don't know the timelines yet. But it looks like he might be fit for that England one-day series. It's not a definitive answer, so don't hold me to it. I haven't had a clear timeline from the physio yet," Agarkar had said.

Having retired from Tests and T20Is, Kohli now features only in ODIs for India. His last international appearance came in the home series against New Zealand in January, where he top-scored for India with 240

Brar credits India 'A' setup for international success

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Lucknow: One of the riveting sights in cricket is to see a fast bowler run in, unleash the ball at great speed and hustle the batsman with his pace. That's why Gurnoor Brar has got Indian cricket excited. The 26-year-old was recently rewarded with six Afghanistan wickets in two ODIs in vastly different conditions — Dharamshala and Lucknow. More than the wickets, it was his ability to hit the deck hard by bowling over 140 kmph consistently that caught the eye.

"I believe in myself and whatever I am doing, whether it is bowling the hard length or the fast-paced ball. The results don't matter. For me, preparation matters," the Punjab pacer said after claiming 3/60 in the second ODI here. Some Indian quickies in recent times have grabbed the limelight with bursts of speed in the IPL before fading into oblivion, but Brar seems to break the mold.

His IPL appearances have been spradic and he is yet to get a game with Gujarat Titans despite spending two seasons with the franchise. However, he seems to have taken it in his stride. "There is Nehra sir, Rabada, Siraj bhai, Prasidh bhai and Ishant Sharma. I was waiting for my chance there. But at the same time, I was observing where they were making mistakes and where they were doing well. For me, it was about how much more I could learn," he said.

The pacer believes that the India 'A' set-up acted as an important bridge between domestic and international cricket and added that Siraj has been a constant support. "The India 'A' setup is obviously a big thing. I tried to replicate the exact same thing that I did in Ranji — bowling fast, hitting a hard length, and swinging the ball — for India 'A'. Siraj *bhai* was with me too," Brar added.

INDIA ENTER FINAL

Guangdong (China): Dominant India outclassed defending champions Hong Kong China 3-1 to storm into the final of the World Team Snooker Championship here on Thursday.

In the title clash on Saturday, India, who won the championship seven years ago in Myanmar, will take on the winners of the other semifinal between hosts China 'A' and Korea. Despite a few hiccups in the doubles match, both Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta were largely on top of their game. It was payback time earlier in the morning. India, who lost their opening league on the first day to China 'B', avenged that defeat with a hard-fought 3-2 victory in the quarterfinals.

WORLD TEAM SNOOKER

Results: Semifinal: India bt Hong Kong China 3-1 (Pankaj Advani bt Cheung Ka Wai 74-1; Aditya Mehta bt Wang Yuchen 67 (67) -9; Advani/ Mehta lost to Yuchen/ Wan Nansen Sin Man 59-68; Advani bt Yuchen 88 (74) -0).

Quarterfinal: India bt China 'B' 3-2 (Advani bt Zhou Jinhao 66 (66) -3; Mehta lost to Ma Hailong 0-136 (136); Advani/ Mehta bt Hailong/ Xu Jianhao 70-55; Advani lost to Hailong 0-98 (94); Mehta bt Jinhao 63 (58) -30). AGENCIES

US Open is ultimate test

Sahith Theegala

I'm very excited about returning to the US Open after missing out last year. For both players and fans, the Majors are the weeks we circle on our calendars the moment the season begins. In my book each Major is a 'tough test' in its own way. As for the professionals, we know that Majors are career-defining and all players dream about showcasing their talent in these landmark events.

The Open is about history, the US Open is the ultimate test of golf. The scores are often around par or higher and they test not only the golfing skills of a player but also their patience and mental toughness.

What makes this Major truly special is its unique qualifying system. Alongside the elite players who earn exemption criteria, thousands of hopefuls from around the world enter the gruelling open qualifiers. For most, it means surviving a local pre-qualifier just to earn a spot in the final 36-hole sectional qualifiers.

This year, Manav Shah, an Indian-American who has played college golf and won on PGA Tour of Latinoamérica, came through that stiff test. He negotiated a pre-qualifier and then the qualifier.

With Manav joining the field, we have a historic contingent of five players of Indian origin teeing it up. (Sahith Theegala is a brand ambassador of Hero MotoCorp and is playing at the US Open)

Hero

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I want to inspire people who follow my music: AR Rahman

Did Nora just score a romantic goal?

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Harry Kane scored twice to equal the English record for World Cup goals as England beat Croatia 4-2. Kane now has 10 World Cup goals, matching Gary Lineker's tally from 1986 & 1990

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THE TIMES

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IS PORTUGAL'S 41-YEAR-OLD STAR FORWARD RONALDO PAST HIS PRIME? HIS GAME AGAINST THE DRC DID LITTLE TO DISPEL PERCEPTIONS THAT HE'S OVER THE HILL 15

Cross-voting dents opposition camp in Karnataka MLC polls

Cong Bags 5, BJP 2, JD(S) Nil; Cong Gets Majority In Council

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Chethan Shivakumar

FINE FIVE: The CM with party's winning candidates Vinay Karthik, BS Shivanna, Tippanna Kamaknoor, PV Mohan and BK Hariprasad on Thursday

Bengaluru: Karnataka chief minister DK Shivakumar steered all five Congress candidates to victory in the biennial legislative council elections for seven seats from the MLAs' quota on Thursday, clearing his first litmus test with flying colours just weeks after taking the reins of office.

With Congress candidates BK Hariprasad, Tippanappa Kamaknoor, PV Mohan, BS Shivanna, and Shivakumar's close aide Vinay Karthik elected as MLCs, the party now enjoys a majority in the upper house for the first time since the 2023 polls.

Contentious bills — on anti-cow slaughter and right to freedom of religion — that had been put on the back burner due to a lack of numbers may get a fresh lease of life.

As expected, BJP's Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya emerged victorious, while JD (S) candidate Govindaraju suffered a big defeat. JD(S) had entered the fray to deny Congress its fifth seat. The polling witnessed significant cross-voting from the opposition ranks, leaving BJP–JD (S) alliance in disarray.

The biggest talking point of the day was the performance of the CM's trusted aide, Vinay Karthik, who secured the highest number of votes at 32, outpolling several senior party functionaries and state unit veterans. Hariprasad, Kamaknoor and Shivanna secured 30 votes each, while Mohan polled 29.

The election recorded 100% polling, with all 222 of the 224 eligible legislators casting their ballots. One vote from BJP quota was declared invalid due to an incorrect preference marking. Patil, who fell short of the required quota with 27 votes, was eventually declared elected in the elimination round after Govindaraju was knocked out.

A jubilant Shivakumar thanked opposition legislators who crossed the aisle and reposed their trust in the Congress government.

For the saffron camp, however, the day ended with serious introspection. "The party will identify those involved in cross-voting and take action later," leader of the opposition, R Ashoka, said.

▶FULL COVERAGE | P4

9 dead as vehicles fall into HP gorges

Seven, including 6 of a family, died when their SUV fell into a gorge in Himachal's Chamba. In another accident, an improperly braked car rolled and fell into a gorge in Lahaul, killing a Gurgaon resident and her 11-month-old son. P 8

DKS: Mekedatu will benefit TN too

CM DK Shivakumar Thursday defended the Mekedatu project, saying it would benefit both Karnataka and TN. "It's not only close to my heart, it is in the heart of entire south." P 4

₹65k-loan for cricket bat & a dream run to captaincy

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Yashbardhan and his lucky 'KL Rahul' series bat

When a young Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan from MP's Chambal asked for a premium cricket bat in 2020, his dad bought one for Rs 65,000 on a loan amid financial crunch as the family business suffered due to covid lockdowns. But the expensive gamble on the 'KL Rahul' series willow has catapulted Yash into India's new U-19 cricket captaincy.

His father, Anami Singh Chauhan, called the buy the "biggest bet on his dream". It got Yash 1,300 runs in the U-13 Kanmadikar Trophy in 2021, drawing the attention of selectors and coaches. As Yash turns 18 in Nov, he leads India against Sri Lanka in the upcoming matches. P 5

Tension in Bhatkal as vigilantes stop interfaith duo's car

Karwar: In an alleged act of vigilantism, members of right-wing organisations intercepted a car carrying an interfaith couple in Bhatkal of Uttara Kannada district on Wednesday morning, leading to protests and an FIR against the activists. According to police, a friendship proposal made by a supermarket salesman was rejected by the woman. Then the salesman allegedly took the woman into his car to have 'a conversation'. TNN

▶ 'FIR not justified', P 3

MULE ACCOUNTS: HOW YOUR MONEY LANDS IN THEIR POCKETS

From 'digital arrest' scams and fake online investment platforms to cryptocurrency frauds, impersonation scams, task-based job frauds and phishing attacks, cybercriminals today are siphoning off crores of rupees from people across India with alarming speed. But behind nearly every major cyber fraud lies a financial infrastructure that keeps the money moving: Mule accounts. **Devanshi Mehta** explores how these accounts power the cybercrime ecosystem, how illicit funds are fragmented and how cops are fighting back

WHAT ARE MULE ACCOUNTS

A mule account is a bank account, UPI ID, or digital wallet that is used by cybercriminals to receive, launder and transfer stolen funds

Mechanism: Fraudsters avoid using their own bank accounts to escape detection. Instead, they route stolen money through these secondary accounts

Mules: The individuals holding these accounts (money mules) can be accomplices (renting their accounts for a commission) or victims (duped via fake job offers, lottery scams, or identity theft)

AI Image

HOW ARE THEY USED

1. The moment a victim transfers money via UPI or net banking, it lands in a 'Layer 1' mule account
2. To defeat automated bank alerts, the money is then instantly split into smaller, non-triggering amounts and distributed across a sprawling network of secondary and tertiary mule accounts across different states
3. Syndicates pool hundreds of mule accounts together to create shadow payment gateways, offering them as a service to international cybercriminals
4. The funds are withdrawn through ATMs in fraud hubs, spent via e-commerce platforms, or converted into cryptocurrency, making recovery nearly impossible

CHALLENGES FOR COPS

A victim might file a complaint in Delhi, but the mule account is registered in rural Karnataka, the ATM withdrawal happens in Haryana (e.g., Nuh), and the mastermind operates from Southeast Asia (e.g., Cambodia or Myanmar)

When police trace the bank account, they find a low-income student, an unemployed youth, a farmer, or a gig worker who has no idea how their credentials were used, or who simply rented their account for a few thousand rupees

Banking systems often take hours or days to flag an anomaly

Manually coordinating between dozens of nodal bank branches, telecom service providers and regional police stations creates critical delays during the golden hour of investigation

HOW POLICE CURB MULE ACCOUNTS

1. Leveraging national platforms (I4C & Pratibimb)
2. Deploying the central suspect registry to automatically decline transactions or instantly freeze active Layer-1 mule accounts
3. Targeted regional crackdowns to dismantle localised networks of 'account-renting' agents in cyber hubs like Mewat, Jamtara, or Nuh

Aadhaar-like lawyers' registry? SC to decide

Seeks Responses From Govt, UGC & Bar Councils

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New Delhi: With one in every three advocates being fake at a time when the judiciary is occupying a central space in India's governance, a concerned Supreme Court Thursday agreed to examine a plea by Bar Association of India (BAI) for a national digital register for advocates along the lines of Aadhaar.

"Judicial independence of the legal profession is at stake," said BAI's counsel Prashant Kumar and Vipin Nair, while drawing the court's attention to the Bar Council of India (BCI) chairperson's recent statement that approximately 35-40% of those practising in courts may be without genuine degrees.

The counsels told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana periodic drives by BCI for the verification of degrees of advocates is an ad hoc measure to address the problem of fake lawyers and suggested the creation of a permanent technology-driven infrastructure in the form of a National Digital Registry for the Legal Professionals (NDRLP).

Bar Association of India drew SC's attention of BCI chairperson's recent remark that about 35-40% of those practising in courts may be without genuine degrees

CJI Kant said the suggestion appeared to be an innovative one, which could be implemented with the help of technology, but it would require the impleadment of all universities which confer law degrees and instructing them to reveal the list of those who had genuinely secured the requisite qualifications to practise in courts.

The bench sought responses from Union govt, BCI, University Grants Commission (UGC) and state bar councils to the PIL. CJI Kant said he had doubts about the genuineness of law degrees of some advocates who post nasty and derogatory comments on their social media pages against the judiciary and judges.

"I am prima facie convinced they are backdoor entries. Advocates by and large are very responsible. The system must identify those who are masquerading as lawyers without proper degrees. The best way to sideline them is to encourage and strengthen the young lawyers by giving them periodic training, as is being done by some advocate bodies, and giving them space in courts. They must be brought to the forefront," he said.

Kumar suggested BCI and the court could frame guidelines on dos and don'ts for lawyers to regulate their social media activities.

SC bins J'khand plea to cut forest buffer zone limit to 250m

Supreme Court Thursday rejected a plea by the Jharkhand govt challenging an HC order quashing its notification for reducing the forest buffer zone limit from 500m to 250m to enable grant of mining leases and said states endowed with rich forests must guard the national wealth zealously. An SC bench refused to accede to senior advocate Meenakshi Arora's plea on behalf of Jharkhand that states like Odisha have reduced the buffer zone limits to 250m. She said quarrying and mining have come to a standstill because of the HC order. TNN

Man 'predicts' SC order on FB, faces plea dismissal

New Delhi: A Facebook post by a self-proclaimed environmentalist, who had pleaded lack of knowledge in law and was penalised by Madhya Pradesh high court, predicting the type of order Supreme Court would pass on his appeal proved to be his undoing Thursday.

Knowing that his appeal against Madhya Pradesh HC order, imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh, is scheduled for hearing in SC Thursday, petitioner Jitendra Lilhare suggested in his Facebook post Wednesday the kind of order the apex court should pass and also predicted the kind of order that would be passed. Senior advocate Sridhar Potaraju brought this to the notice of SC and said he appears to be misusing the pendency of litigation to write on Facebook.

Rejecting petitioner's request for adjournment of hearing by two weeks, SC dismissed Lilhare's appeal but waived the Rs 1 lakh cost imposed on him by HC for filing frivolous PIL. SC said if Lilhare was found indulging in filing of frivolous PILs in future, HC order imposing Rs 1 lakh cost on him would stand revived. Before HC, Lilhare had complained against illegal sand mining without disclosing vital facts including pending criminal cases against him and withdrawal of similar PIL earlier. TNN

A BOY, A BICYCLE, A DOG NAMED PAA AND THEIR JOURNEY ACROSS INDIA

Text and photos by
Anindya Chattopadhyay

New Delhi: At first glance, Ricky looks like any other long-distance cyclist making his way down the highway. But a closer look reveals a furry companion keeping him company.

The 17-year-old from Mariani in Assam's Jorhat district was recently seen crossing the Delhi-Meerut Expressway during his ongoing bicycle tour across India. Accompanying him was Paa, the dog who has become his constant travelling partner.

Ricky was on his way back from Kedarnath, a journey he completed entirely on a bicycle after setting out from Assam on April 30. The trip is part of his larger goal of seeing India from the saddle rather than through a bus or train window.

Paa's story is tied closely to Ricky's own. During a cycling trip to Bengaluru in 2025, Ricky came across a stray dog and decided to take him along. The dog stayed. Since then, the pair have travelled together, sharing roads, resting spots and long days on the move.

This is not Ricky's first cycling expedition. He had earlier travelled through Bengaluru South and Chikmagaluru. But his current journey has drawn attention wherever he has gone. Motorists stop to ask questions, passersby take photographs and curious locals gather to hear his story.

"I left school after Class VIII because I wanted to travel and meet different people across India"

Life on the road has been simple. Ricky says he often found shelter in temples and received food and support from people he met along the way. Many offered help without expecting anything in return.

Behind the journey stands the support of his father, brother and grandmother, who have encouraged his dream of travelling across India by bicycle.